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CIA torture tactics did not aid terror intelligence: Report

New Democrats call for an end to information-sharing policy in light of newly released information

3 PAGES OF COVERAGE INSIDE

While we wait for the zombies to spring back to life

The Walking Dead is on hiatus, so Metro helps you survive the lull in the undead apocalypse by looking at which characters have the best chance to keep surviving

PAGE 32

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Billions too much for electricity

Scathing report.

Ontario auditor general suggests we're paying three times the market price for our power

Ontario's $2-billion smart meter program for hydro utilities has delivered few benefits for the hefty cost, Ontario's auditor general Bonnie Lysyk reported Monday.

In fact, one in six of the 4.8 million meters installed have not transmitted any readings, she found. "Based on a $2-billion investment, there doesn't seem to be $2 billion of value coming yet," she said.

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli sharply disputed Lysyk's findings.

"The A-G's estimates of total costs are not accurate," Chiarelli told reporters.

"Electricity is very complex ... and I can tell you that some of our senior managers in discussing these issues with some of the representatives from the auditor general's office had the feeling they didn't understand some of the elements of it."

Lysyk also took a roundhouse swing at the province for plunging into the system without proper planning, making it impossible for consumers to understand their rising hydro bills.

She estimated that customers are paying more than three times the market price for electricity — meaning ratepayers will pay $50 billion between 2006 and 2015 because of an extra charge on their bills.

She added that the Ontario Energy Board needs to do more to justify the rates that gas companies are charging their customers.

She aimed a special jab at Hydro One, which she said incurred about 50 per cent of the cost of the smart meter program — but installed only 25 per cent of them.

Smart meters allow utilities to charge different prices at different times of day, a function that's supposed to encourage conservation, especially at peak times when the system is under stress.

But Lysyk said the pricing system has had only "a modest impact on reducing peak demand" and "no impact at all on energy conservation."

Energy bureaucrats have bamboozled consumers for years by lumping the true costs of energy in a catch-all fee called the "global adjustment" that now makes up the majority of the cost of energy, she suggested.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More coverage of the report, page 6.

TOW TRUCK PROTESTERS TIE UP T.O. TRAFFIC

The northbound lanes of University at College were jammed with tow trucks Monday as a large convoy of trucks assembled at Queen's Park to protest the passing of a new auto insurance law, Bill 15. Widespread delays were also reported as the convoy headed downtown. See story, page 8.

BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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A train moves through Bloor-Yonge station on Tuesday as TTC CEO Andy Byford (not pictured) promises big changes for 2015. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

TTC boss calls for 'war'

Turn for the best.
Expect a cleaner, more punctual TTC: Byford

LUKE SIMCOE
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The TTC is sweating the small stuff.

At the first meeting of the new TTC board Tuesday, CEO Andy Byford told commissioners he's declaring "an all-out war on the basics" of transit service.

Less than 24 hours earlier, Byford unveiled plans to reduce streetcar short-turns along St. Clair Avenue and, on Tuesday, he touted a number of small improvements that have yielded big results.

In October, for example, the TTC added two additional trains — one in each direction — along the Bloor-Danforth and Yonge-University lines during peak hours. The move increased capacity by 2,500 riders per hour and reduced overtime costs for staffing and means about three extra trains per hour are going southbound through St. George Station every morning.

"By adding capacity, you're actually unlocking the potential of all the other trains," said Mike Palmer, the TTC's deputy chief operating officer.

Palmer said getting more trains on the track is imperative if the TTC wants to keep pace with growing ridership. To do that, the transit commission plans to add automatic train control to the Yonge line by 2020.

Dubbed ATC, the system allows for trains to be controlled via computer.

"It allows you to go driverless if you wanted to go down that route," TTC spokesman Brad Ross said. "But that's not something we're talking about at this point."

Ross said the move to ATC is really about allowing trains to travel closer together, thereby adding much-needed capacity.

TTC CEO Andy Byford
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"The train has an envelope around it and that envelope expands as it picks up speed and narrows as it slows down," he said. "We can put 25 per cent more trains on a line because ATC keeps them safely spaced."

Byford also pledged to improve the auditing methods used by the TTC to gauge cleanliness at stations and on board vehicles.

The commission's chief customer officer, Chris Upfold, believes the audits will show how far the commission has come in terms of cleanliness.

"Our stations are world class," he said. "They're cleaner than any comparable station around the world."

Since Byford took the reins in 2012, the TTC has hired additional cleaning staff, changed washroom cleaning schedules from twice a day to every 90 minutes and started cleaning trains every time they reach a terminus station.

Upfold acknowledged it's impossible to keep every train, streetcar and bus spotless but stressed that cleanliness is a key pillar of customer service.

"Cleanliness drives lots of other perceptions," he said. "If we can keep a station clean, it shows we can keep it safe."

TTC Survey

- **535 million:** Expected ridership for TTC this year, up from 420 million a decade ago. Andy Byford called the growth "exponential."
- **74 per cent:** Customers who rate their most recent trip on the TTC at least a seven out of 10. The same number are "proud of the TTC and what it means to Toronto."
- **41 per cent:** Riders who use the TTC every day, with 44 per cent using it to commute to work.
- **70 per cent:** Riders who believe the best way to improve the TTC is to increase service, compared to only 15 per cent who believe the best way to improve is through lower fares.

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Riding in unison to expand bike network

Sharing the wealth. Toronto councillors would use their portions of Section 37 funds to expand the Bike Share initiative

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
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A city councillor has a creative plan to use money intended for infrastructure in her ward to build new Bike Share stations outside of the core.

Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam, who represents Toronto Centre-Rosedale, said she plans to spend $1.1 million of Section 37 money to bring 22 Bike Share stations to other wards. Right now, the system only exists in the core.

"People who are living, for example, north of Bloor or east of the Don Valley cannot access the system. They would like to ride in from the Beach, from midtown and uptown, but they cannot," she said. "Expansion is key to making a financially viable system."

The money she's using comes from developers who negotiate under Section 37 of the provincial Planning Act to get a zoning variance from the city for new projects. In return, developers agree to build something that benefits the ward — such as a public park — or give the city money, which councillors must spend on infrastructure that benefits that ward.

Since Wong-Tam's ward is downtown, she's planning to take existing bike-share stations from her ward, move them to new wards, and place new ones at the original locations.

St. Paul's Coun. Joe Mihevc is planning to spend $150,000 of Section 37 money, which will be matched by the transportation department if approved in the budget process, to build six new stations in his ward, expanding the network north to St. Clair.

Two other councillors are said to have similar plans.

The Toronto Parking Authority, which runs Bike Share, and Mayor John Tory announced Tuesday that TD Bank has agreed to sponsor the bike-share system, pumping in more than $1.3 million over two years to help the city deal with the cost of managing the system.

Lorne Persiko, president of the parking authority, said the city is already planning to build 20 new stations next year that will initially serve Pan Am Games locations.

The additional new stations paid for by the Section 37 money won't come until 2016.

Quoted

"It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Kristyn Wong-Tam, city councillor for Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Wong-Tam said she intends to spend $1.1 million of Section 37 funds to bring 22 Bike Share stations to other wards in the city. The city's bike system currently only exists in Toronto's core.

Mayor John Tory, centre, and others at Tuesday's Bike Share announcement. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

The delay is because of problems with the supply chain, said Persiko.

Toronto's previous supplier was the Public Bike System Company, which declared bankruptcy this year. The parking authority is looking for a new supplier.

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AG report slams Liberal spending

Some highlights of auditor general Bonnie Lysyk's 595-page document:

Annual report. Use of P3s cost taxpayers extra $8B, says Lysyk

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk has taken a wrecking ball to the Liberals' use of private money to bankroll new hospitals and transit — and fired a rocket at MaRS.

In a 595-page annual report to the legislature that blasted a "high-risk" $224-million government loan for the medical and related sciences (MaRS) tower, Lysyk said Infrastructure Ontario's use of private-public partnerships has cost $8 billion more than traditional public financing.

"Nothing is free," she said at Queen's Park, noting the premium is mostly because private-sector companies face higher costs of borrowing than governments.

"What this shows is that if the public sector could manage projects successfully, on time and on budget, taxpayer money could be saved."

But Infrastructure Ontario CEO Bert Clark said the "Eight-billion-dollar number does not tell the whole story" because large-scale publicly funded projects — such as the troubled Union Station renovation and the slow-moving Spadina subway extension to York University — routinely suffer from cost overruns and delays. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Debt

The debt is growing faster than the economy. By the time the deficit is eliminated by the target of 2017-18, the debt will stand at about $325 billion — up from $267 billion at the end of March.

Health

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has no way of tracking the percentage of Ontarians immunized for certain diseases, or whether its immunization program is cost-effective.

Offenders

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services needs to improve rehabilitation programs and supervision of offenders serving their sentences in the community to lower the rate of re-offending and reduce the risk to the public.

Ontario auditor general Bonnie Lysyk speaks to media after tabling her 2014 report on Tuesday. Lysyk said a number of government programs "didn't always provide value for money or deliver services as effectively as the public has the right to expect." ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Infrastructure

Infrastructure projects delivered under public-private partnerships are costing much more than if they were contracted out and successfully managed by the public sector. Using the example of 74 projects under Infrastructure Ontario, Lysyk found costs were estimated to be nearly $8 billion more.

Immigrants

The nominee program has "serious deficiencies" that increase the risk of unqualified people immigrating to Ontario who may not be of economic benefit to the province.

Water

The government has yet to fully implement source-water protection plans — a key recommendation from the commission that investigated the Walkerton tainted-water tragedy.

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An early Christmas gift. Love Sandals gets some online love with donation

GILBERT NGABO
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Abi Smithson got an early Christmas gift in the most unexpected form.

The 10-year-old Mississauga entrepreneur and CEO of Love Sandals launched an Indiegogo campaign to help launch her first order with a retailer.

One day before the deadline, she was $8,000 short of her $15,000 target. So, she decided to extend the deadline for another 15 days.

Now, she's in the money, so to speak. Thanks largely to a $8,700 surprise donation from UPS, the campaign has surpassed its goal.

"She was so excited and visibly shocked," said Julie Smithson, Abi's mom. "She knows what that means, and that there's so much work ahead."

With the money available, the young entrepreneur can now hit the retail market.

Three retailers have lined up to start talks early next year, Julie Smithson said.

Abi Smithson and her mentor Robert Ott, chair of Ryerson School of Fashion, go over design plans for the Love Sandal.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Alleged sex assault didn't occur: Police

Investigation dropped. Cops say Kew Gardens attack did not happen

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Toronto police say a 21-year-old woman's report of being attacked and sexually assaulted last month in Kew Gardens is untrue.

Police released a statement Tuesday saying the alleged assault "did not occur."

The woman reported she was hit over the head with a brick, dragged to the beach and left in the water after being sexually assaulted. Four men reportedly were involved.

The woman will not be charged with making a false report because police and the Crown don't have a reasonable chance of getting a conviction in court, Const. David Hopkinson said.

To get a conviction, they would need to prove the information she provided was untrue.

"I don't know, I'm only speculating — it could be because she was heavily intoxicated," Hopkinson said about why she could not be convicted of filing a false report.

Hopkinson clarified that he not was actually stating that the alleged victim was intoxicated. Instead, that was speculation, or an example of why she might not be charged.

Tuesday's press release announcing the assault did not occur was the first public mention of the case.

Although police opened their investigation Nov. 26, they waited to get a sense of the investigation before sending out the standard sexual assault alert to the media and the public. Ultimately, no alert was sent, Hopkinson said.

Police said they issued Tuesday's statement because several people helped the woman on the night of the alleged assault, and investigators thought they might be worried about predators in the area.

"It's responsible for us to tell them the truth — you know, this girl may have been under the effects of alcohol or mistaken," Hopkinson said. "Whatever it was, the police believe this did not occur the way she's told it."

He would not say how the woman's report was disputed.

Protesting new law. Tow truck drivers slow down Toronto commute

Tow truck drivers were hampering the commute in the Toronto area Tuesday, as an estimated 1,500 of them headed to Ontario's legislature to protest a new auto insurance law.

The drivers were making their way to Queen's Park from three different locations on major highways (Steeles Avenue and Highway 404, Bovaird Drive and Highway 410 in Brampton and Mavis Road and Highway 401 in Mississauga).

The province says the new legislation will regulate the tow truck industry and reduce auto insurance rates but tow truck drivers say it hampers their ability to do their job and may ultimately raise prices.

The government says the new law will reduce auto insurance premiums by about 15 per cent by August 2015, allow customers to pay tow truck drivers by credit card and provide itemized billing.

Queen's Park was jammed with tow trucks on Tuesday.

BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A similar protest in Brampton on Monday caused widespread delays, and police warned drivers to avoid the downtown area at the time.

The bill passed in the legislature on Nov. 20.

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INCLUDES Midtown accom on Madison Avenue. Departs Jan 10/wsv/ws. ADD Empire State Building audio tour for $41.

Orlando Family Special
Flights + 7 Nights $529◊
Seralago Hotel and Suites
INCLUDES central accom with free transportation to major attractions. Price per person based on family of 4. Departs Apr 14/ggv/aa. ADD Universal Studios 2-Day Park-to-Park ticket with 3rd Day freeΔ for $205◊.

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Royal National
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Teacher pleads case from jail

Neil Bantleman.
Burlington educator says he fears for his safety in Jakarta facility

Neil Bantleman walks with his wife Tracy Bantleman after a day in court at a south Jakarta courthouse on Tuesday. He filed a letter with the court calling for the case against him to be dismissed. ADEK BERRY/GETTY IMAGES

It took Neil Bantleman a while on Monday to remember it was his 147th day in custody. The Burlington man stopped counting after day 120.

"What's today's date?" he asked.

A day before his Tuesday appearance in a closed-door hearing — seeking to get the sex-abuse case against him dismissed — Bantleman was sitting barefoot on a multi-coloured straw mat in Cipinang Penitentiary Institution in Indonesia's capital of Jakarta, shifting periodically due to back pain. The international-school teacher was soft-spoken as he gave his first in-custody interview, his voice barely above a whisper.

Bantleman faces allegations of sexual assault involving three boys at the Jakarta Intercultural School, who are six years old on average. He was held without charge for nearly the maximum 120 days, and his case was thrown back to police three times before prosecutors said on Oct. 29 they would accept it.

Bantleman denies there is any truth to the allegations.

Since then, he says, he has been moved from police detention to the maximum-security Cipinang, where, on Monday, he looked over the draft of a letter he would read to court on Tuesday.

"The investigators have never explained what criminal offences I am accused of, when I am alleged to have carried out these offences or what evidence they have establishing me as a suspect," the letter said.

"I am an innocent upstanding member of society," Bantleman further wrote. "I have never committed any offence against any student or any individual throughout my entire teaching career. All of the things the indictment letter says, I am not."

Bantleman told Torstar News Service he fears for his safety among the convicted violent criminals in Cipinang. He says one of the detainees taunted him: "So, you like to sleep with boys?"

An Indonesian man who is also accused in the case, teaching assistant Ferdinant Tjiong, was also to have his day in court.

On Tuesday about 60 supporters — colleagues and parents of students — showed up at court, many wearing T-shirts that read: "Free Neil and Ferdi." Also present were the men's wives and representatives from the Canadian embassy.

Bantleman's ordeal began nearly half a year ago, just before the last day of the school term, when a late-night phone call interrupted an episode of House of Cards. Bantleman's superior at the school, then known as Jakarta International School, told him he had been named in an ongoing sexual-assault investigation.

"We were happy the school year was going to end," Bantleman told Torstar. But the call changed everything. "It was a nightmare."

Bantleman and Tjiong were named in a case involving six janitors at the school who were alleged to have raped children. Bantleman alleges they were subjected to shady investigative practices and denied consular access.

The janitors — one of whom died in custody — have since been tried. According to local media, they have recanted their initial confessions, claiming they were tortured, and are due to receive judgment in January.

Bantleman's legal team questions the motives of the complainants.

The allegations have Bantleman just wanting to get out of Indonesia, however the case turns out.

"I don't feel — even if this all ended today — that I'd feel safe," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No peace of mind

"I don't feel — even if this all ended today — that I'd feel safe."
Neil Bantleman

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Northumberland Mall

CONCORD
Vaughan Mills

ETOBICOKE
Albion Mall

GUELPH
Stone Road Mall

HAMILTON
Centre on Barton
Eastgate Square
Jackson Square Mall
Lime Ridge Mall

KITCHENER
Fairview Park Mall

LONDON
Masonville Place
White Oaks Mall

MARKHAM
9-570 Alden Road
3255 Highway 7 East, Unit 126
8339 Kennedy Rd, South Unionville SQ
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall, Unit E28, C3

MIDLAND
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MILTON
Milton Mall

MISSISSAUGA
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Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Rockwood Mall
Sheridan Centre
South Common
Square One Shopping Centre
Westwood Mall

NEWMARKET
Upper Canada Mall

NORTH YORK
Centerpoint Mall
Fairview Mall
Yorkdale Shopping Centre

OAKVILLE
Oakville Place
South Oakville Centre

OSHAWA
Five Points Mall
Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
Pickering Town Centre

RICHMOND HILL
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Hillcrest Mall

SCARBOROUGH
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4675 Steeles Avenue East, Unit 1D18
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2400 Eglinton Avenue
1911 Finch Avenue West, SB Unit K13
333 King Street East
1712A Queen Street East
290 Queen Street West
1448 Queen Street West
222 Spadina Avenue, Unit 3A
2181 Steeles Avenue West, Unit B10
363 Yonge Street
2300 Yonge Street, Unit S22, concourse level
2674 Yonge Street
4841 Yonge Street
5150 Yonge Street, Unit G3
6064 Yonge Street
Agincourt Mall
Cedarbrae Mall
College Park
Dufferin Mall
East York Town Centre
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CITY MATTERS SURVEY We hear from you

To privatize or not to privatize?

In a survey conducted for Metro by MQO Research, roughly half of the 600 Torontonians polled were in favour of alcohol sales in non-government stores

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

While the government remains focused on building more public LCBO stores, such as "Our Wine Country Destination Boutiques," rather than exploring private options, a new survey has found about half of Torontonians would be happy to see more private stores selling booze.

According to the City Matters survey conducted for Metro by MQO Research, 49 per cent of the 600 Torontonians polled said they wanted alcohol sold in non-government stores, compared to 39 per cent who opposed more private liquor sales and 12 per cent who weren't sure.

"With regards to this, by selling beverage alcohol in a socially responsible manner, the LCBO generated over $1.7 billion in revenue in 2013-14, funding which supports services Ontarians rely on such as health care and education," Scott Blodgett, spokesman for the Ministry of Finance, said in a written statement to Metro.

Last spring the government announced that there would be up to seven LCBO Express stores — kiosks selling booze in grocery stores — by the end of the year. The request for proposals was closed in the spring, but so far none have opened.

The Liquor Control Board of Ontario was born out of the end of prohibition in Ontario and some things haven't changed, said Scott Thompson, a post-doctoral fellow at Queen's University who has studied the history of the LCBO.

The sale of alcohol was seen as preying on the poor and weak-willed.

"Since the very beginning, the LCBO was about this idea of moral sale," said Thompson.

"There's a sense that you can't just have anyone sell alcohol because it's an addictive substance, it's a dangerous substance. It's saying that the state, since it's not driven by the profit motive, is pure in that way. It's not the same as a corner store thinking about profit."

That said, the sale of alcohol has brought the government a lot of money since the end of prohibition in 1927.

"That's why the government brought back the sale of alcohol. It was very unpopular at the time, but they needed the revenues."

Before the 1970s, alcohol was kept out of sight in the stores to avoid temptation and sales were restricted in a classist and racist way, he said.

The interdiction list — also called by the racist name the Indian list, until about the 1960s — was a list of known drunkards who were prohibited from buying alcohol, he said.

The general public could apply to the LCBO to have someone added to the interdiction list, and working-class and First Nations people were stereotyped and overrepresented, Thompson said.

42%

More women (42 per cent) than men (34 per cent) oppose private alcohol sales, says the City Matters survey.

- **History.** In the past, the interdiction list that was used to prevent people from buying alcohol was used most often by wives reporting their husbands, Queen's University's Scott Thompson said. "From the 1960s until it ended in 1990, battered women used it to have their husbands listed. Under the legislation, if you were on the drunk list, police didn't need a warrant to enter your home," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

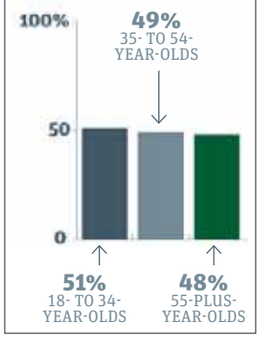
23%

The City Matters survey found support for private liquor sales dropped to 23 per cent, among those with an annual income below $25,000. Support was at 46, 47 and 56 per cent for those making $25,000 to $49,000, $50,000 to $74,000, and $75,000-plus respectively.

- **Opposition.** Queen University's Scott Thompson said he doesn't know why people with lower incomes were found to oppose private sales of alcohol. He noted opposition to private liquor sales usually comes from a moral standpoint that addictive substances can be dangerous.

All-ages

THE CITY MATTERS SURVEY FOUND LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN THE PERCENTAGE WHO WANT LIQUOR OUTSIDE THE LCBO



CITY MATTERS: PART III

In this five-part series we hear what you, the people of Toronto, have to say on city issues.

- Monday: Police services rank high in your eyes
- Tuesday: Law-breaking cyclists vs. law-breaking drivers
- **Wednesday: Not everyone wants liquor outside the LCBO**
- Thursday: We look at city safety and how it's changed
- Friday: What makes you happy (hint: it's not money)

For more and to comment, go to metronews.ca

12.10.14

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NDP wants to make OHIP billings public

New legislation.
Private members' bill would allow oversight of payments to private companies

Provincial New Democrats say they plan to introduce legislation in the New Year that would make physician OHIP billings public.

"It would give us an opportunity to keep an eye on $11-billion worth of taxpayer money," NDP health critic France Gelinas said.

Physician payments amount to $11 billion annually in Ontario. Of that, about $8 billion goes to doctors in fee-for-service payments from the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

"It's completely opaque. No one really knows where the money goes," said Gelinas who plans to introduce a private members' bill after the legislature resumes sitting in February.

A Torstar News Service story on Sunday revealed that the top 100 billers to the Ontario Health Insurance Plan were paid a total of $191 million in 2012-13, according to data received from the health ministry through a freedom-of-information request.

Ophthalmologists were the biggest billers, followed by diagnostic radiologists and then cardiologists, according to information provided.

Gelinas said her bill, if passed, would also allow for public oversight of private companies that are now doing work that hospitals once did.

As hospitals shrink, more services are being moved out to the private sector.

For example, hospitals are performing fewer cataract surgeries and colonoscopies and private clinics, known as out-of-hospital premises, are picking up the slack. As well, hospitals are now turning to private-group purchasing organizations, rather than doing purchasing themselves.

With more oversight, legislators could keep a closer eye on companies such as Medbuy, which a government committee found was ultimately responsible for cancer patients receiving diluted chemotherapy drugs in 2012, Gelinas noted.

She said there are many layers of public oversight in hospitals, but that is lost when the publicly funded services move away from hospitals and are provided by private companies.

"We want layers of oversight to follow taxpayer money that flows through third-party organizations," she said.

Under Gelinas' bill, the provincial auditor would be given the authority to look at the books of private contractors, officials from private companies could be called in front of a legislative committee for questioning, and the public would be made aware of who in those companies earns more than $100,000 annually, paid for by taxpayer money.

Meanwhile, some physician groups say they are not opposed to OHIP billings being made public, so long as the net incomes of physicians are also disclosed.

"If you want to have transparency, I wouldn't be opposed to the process. I'm a taxpayer, too," said Dr. Jim Swan, president of the Ontario Association of Cardiologists.

He said overhead expenses of cardiologists eat into as much as 40 per cent of their billings. This goes toward covering office costs and the purchase and maintenance of expensive equipment such as echocardiogram machines, which test heart function.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transparency

British Columbia has been releasing physician-identified billings since 1971 and Manitoba has been doing so since 1996.

- **"I witnessed no negative effects from this degree of transparency and, on the positive side, I believe it increased physician accountability," said Tom Closson, former CEO of the Capital Health Region in B.C.**

A window on a magical world

A young child stops to look at the train display at the Bloor-Yonge station on Monday. The train display is the work of TTC special events co-ordinator Bill Marusiak, who has been building holiday train displays for more than 30 years. This will be the first time the display has been open to commuters at the TTC's busiest station. For years, Bill's train sets were featured in the lobby of the TTC's head office. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blair Keetch, a Santa for pets, says it is not easy to hold a dog still for the camera or to get a cat to smile.
OLIVIA CARVILLE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Santa Claus for Fido and Fluffy

Challenging job.
Now sit, stay, and pant at the camera

Buster's ears are down. Fear is in his eyes.

A man in a big red suit grips his harness as the two-year-old Boston terrier leans as far away as possible, his paws sliding on the studio floor.

Not all dogs love Pet Santa.

"Some can be pretty shy," Purina Pawsway veteran Santa Blair Keetch told Torstar News Service.

"They are like small, apprehensive children wondering, 'Who is this big guy in a red suit and white beard and why do I have to sit on him?'" he said, laughing.

The role of Pet Santa comes with its hiccups, Keetch said.

He has been peed on. He has had to send hyperactive dogs outside for quiet time. He has had full-grown German shepherds plant themselves on his lap. But in four years of doing this, he has never been bitten.

The biggest challenge is actually learning how to avoid the slobbery dog tongue while posing for a photo, Keetch said.

Quoted

"... They start sniffing away and licking my beard, and I'm like, 'Whoa, don't blow my cover there, buddy. That beard is not glued to my face!'" Blair Keetch, Pet Santa

"I'm holding on to them and they start sniffing away and licking my beard, and I'm like, 'Whoa, don't blow my cover there, buddy. That beard is not glued to my face!'"

Keetch, who is the general manager at the Queens Quay attraction, dons the big red suit for the dogs and cats every December. "This is one of my favourite events. It really captures the spirit of the season and is a lot of fun," he said.

Last Sunday was the biggest day on record for Keetch — he featured in almost 80 festive photographs.

Dogs and cats decorated in antlers and Christmas sweaters queued up outside Santa's den at Purina Pawsway to have their turn on his red velvet lap.

In the photographs shown on the Purina Pawsway Facebook page, the dogs' heads are cocked to one side, their tongues are hanging out and they look somewhat confused by the situation.

The dogs file in one by one so they are not distracted during the photo shoot. They are unleashed and spend some time sniffing Santa's pants before they are comfortable enough to be placed on his knee, Keetch said.

The photographer then uses high-pitched whistles and squeaky soft-toys to naturally draw the dog's attention away from Santa and towards the camera.

However, this tactic is not always successful — it doesn't tend to work with cats and it certainly did not help with Buster, who was "genuinely terrified," owner Lisa Barley said.

It was Buster's third time meeting Santa. The first year he was a puppy, but he was still "very concerned" by Father Christmas, she said. The second time "he was not a fan."

"We really laughed when we saw the photo this year. It's now framed and hanging on our wall," Barley said.

Purina Pawsway charges $12 for a photograph with Pet Santa. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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YouTube

Police charge teens after video posted of girl being robbed of cellphone

Three teens are facing charges in connection with the robbery of a Brampton high-school student. Authorities say the event was captured on video and posted online.

The video was posted to several online sites on the weekend, including YouTube, but was removed from YouTube on Sunday.

The video showed a girl being physically and verbally bullied by two other girls, while a male voice can also be heard in the background, and the girl is then robbed of her cellphone.

Peel Region police say the incident occurred on Oct. 24 and that an investigation led to the arrest of three people on Oct. 29.

Two 17-year-old girls and a 17-year-old boy are each charged with robbery. They cannot be identified under provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Authorities say the victim, who was 16 at the time, suffered no injuries.

"Initially the victim went to the school, the school advised police and the investigation was initiated at that point," said Const. Lilly Fitzpatrick.

"The matter has been dealt with and the victim in this incident is fine."

Peel District School Board spokeswoman Carla Pereira said the board also investigated the incident in October.

"The victim is identified in the video, so clearly it's obvious to us that we needed to help," Pereira said.

Police warn that anyone who engages in this type of activity will be arrested.

"Bullying is a behaviour that is not tolerated and is not accepted. Not by the police and not by … the school boards," said Fitzpatrick.

"This is something they treat very, very seriously."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Tis the season for beer

Take your time and enjoy it. Professor of beer Roger Mittag comes to grips with a Guinness, which he says is a great winter drink. CONTRIBUTED

Beer professor.
Toronto expert reveals why a cold beer is hot right now

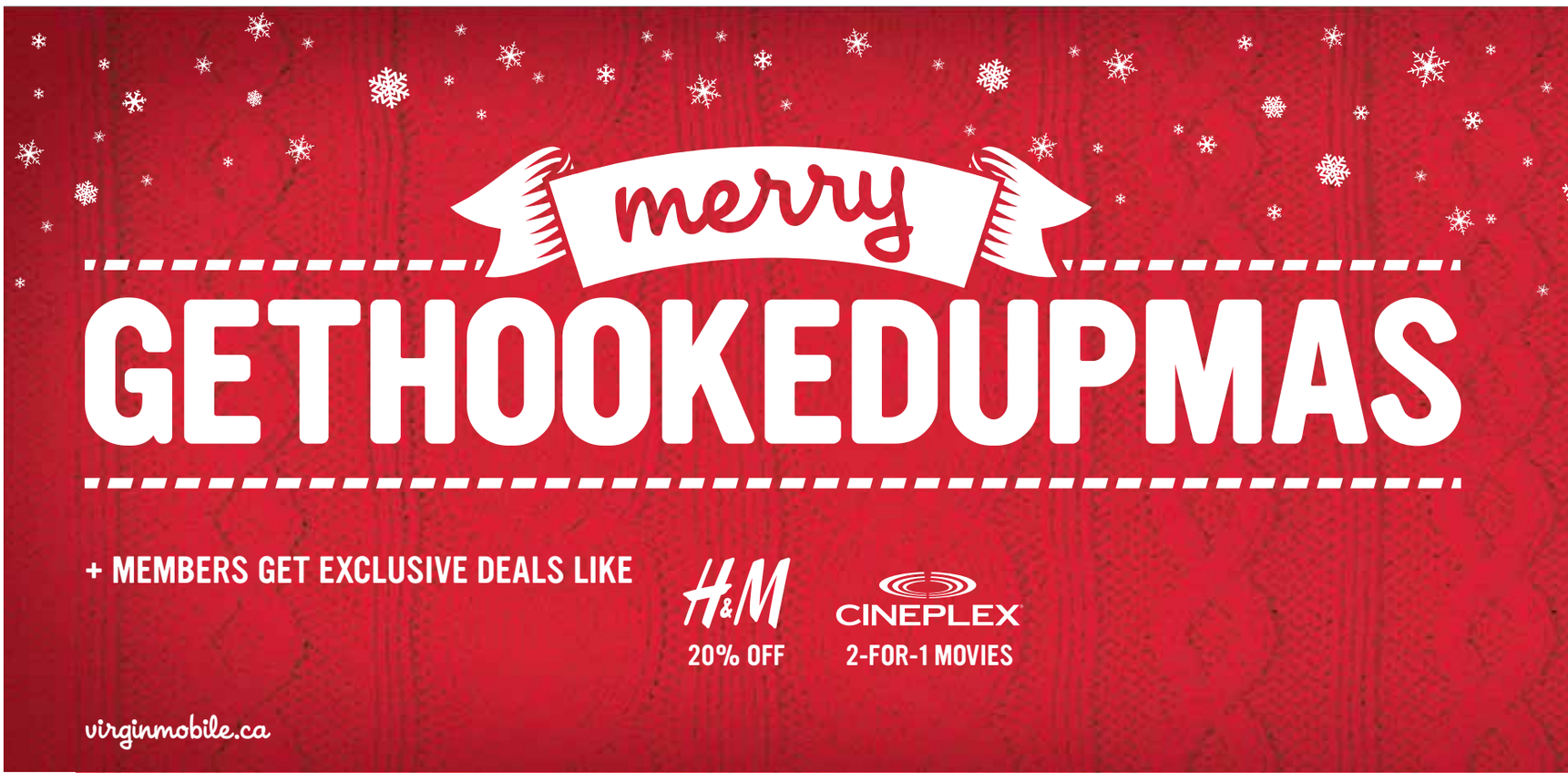
MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

It's time to take another look at beer, Toronto's professor of beer has said, and there's never been a better time to do it.

Roger Mittag, who really is a professor of beer at Humber College, said the credibility of the drink deserves more attention, especially during the holidays when people are thinking about what to take to parties.

"The big thing for me is to help people to understand and appreciate it," said Mittag, founder of beer education company Thirst for Knowledge.

"That means to slow down and look at the beer, and smell the beer, and taste the beer. Get it out of the can and get it into a glass so you can appreciate everything the brewer



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has put into it," he explains. "Think about having it with food."

There's been a resurgence of respect for the humble beer, Mittag said, after 15 to 20 years of what he sees as a focus on wine.

"I think people have, for years and years, taken beer for granted," he continued. "But now they're starting to understand it goes with different kinds of foods."

Mittag is the founder of Prud'homme, Canada's first certification program for beer sommeliers, who help people to appreciate the drink.

As well as teaching at Humber's School of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism, he's an expert on beer technologies — yes, that's a real thing — like the "widget," a 1980s invention that infuses beer with nitrogen as it's poured from the can, making a pub-style pint possible.

It means people can enjoy a Guinness stout properly at home, with a real head, a softer texture and more nuances in the flavour.

"I love all beer and I think all beer has times and circumstances in which they're best consumed," Mittag said. "Into colder months, something with a little bit more body, with roasted malts in there, and a little more bitterness tends to be more comforting."

Mittag also said beer can have health benefits. Because it usually has less alcohol than other drinks, he said, it's that great social drink that helps people control their state of inebriation better — in theory.

"There really isn't any fat in beer," he added. "There are lots of carbohydrates, but carbohydrates are easily digested.

"The reason we get beer bellies is over-consumption. It's a combination of beer and the wrong foods at the wrong times."

As for Guinness, that old idea that it's good for you is true, Mittag said. It's a myth that it contains iron, but it does have antioxidants that bring health benefits.

But it all comes with a warning: Everything in moderation. And that's true for the turkey, too.

Pairing beer with the right food

Roger Mittag, a professor of beer, offered some advice on how to pair types of beer with seasonal foods.

- For a turkey dinner, or other light-tasting foods, try a traditional lager like a Pilsner. The clean, refreshing taste is complementary. Or consider a fruit beer.
- For dark meats like steak or a roast, or rich foods like an aged cheddar or a chocolate dessert, a good, full-bodied stout can mean a perfect relationship. There's also an opportunity to have stouts with contrasting foods, like cherry cheesecake.
- For soft cheeses like Camembert or brie, which often turn up on the table at celebrations, try a wheat beer, especially the ones that are Belgium's great gift to the world.

Quoted

"The reason we get beer bellies is over-consumption. It's a combination of beer and the wrong foods at the wrong times."

Roger Mittag, a professor of beer at Humber College, says that too much beer can give you a beer belly.

Cheese and beer are a splendid combination, as well. This Camembert, for example, would pair well with a wheat beer. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tip from a beer professor

This holiday season, try a beer with more alcohol

Here's a tip that nobody needs to hear: This Christmas, why not sample a higher-alcohol beer?

Roger Mittag suggested that, during these social occasions, it's good to have a drink that can be sipped slowly and appreciated, almost like a cognac.

"But they need to be made well," he warned, adding that people might want to pick up a few beers for Christmases yet to come.

"A lot of the higher-alcohol beers also have yeast in them, so they can be aged for three to five years," Mittag said.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

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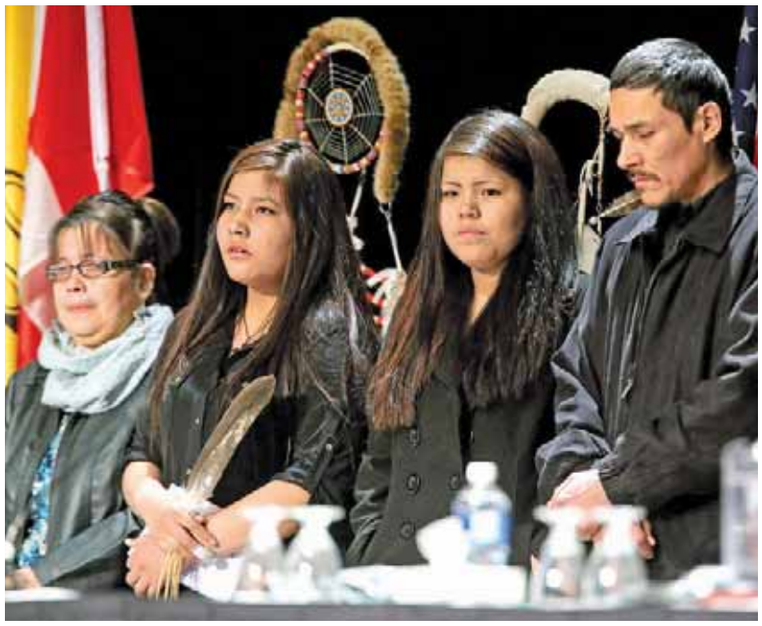

Teen assault survivor speaks at AFN election

With the support of her family, Rinelle Harper, second from left, stands after speaking at the Assembly of First Nations Election in Winnipeg on Tuesday. The Manitoba teenager, who was viciously assaulted and left for dead by the side of a river, has added her voice to the call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women. "I am Rinelle Harper and I am from the Garden Hill First Nation," the 16-year-old said tentatively. "I am here to talk about an end to violence against young (aboriginal) women." The assembly was honouring her with a drumming ceremony at the start of a three-day meeting in Winnipeg. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

End sharing of info from torture: NDP

Canadian directives criticized. A new U.S. report says that torture does not yield valuable information in fight against terrorism

The official Opposition pointed to a new U.S. report that discredits torture in renewing a call for the Conservative government to rescind its information-sharing policy.

The long-anticipated U.S. Senate intelligence committee report concludes the Central Intelligence Agency's use of simulated drowning, confinement in small spaces, sleep deprivation and threats of violence against family members did not yield valuable information in the post-9/11 fight against terrorism.

In the House of Commons, New Democrat MP Peter Julian said Tuesday the conclusion to be drawn from the American report is simple: Torture doesn't work. However, Julian pointed out, the Canadian government has issued directives to several police and security agencies allowing them to use and share information derived using brutal methods.

The instructions give five federal agencies — the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the RCMP, the military, Canada Border Services and the Communications Security Establishment — the go-ahead to exchange information with a foreign partner even when doing so may give rise to a substantial risk of torture.

The Canadian policy has drawn criticism from human rights advocates and opposition MPs who say it effectively condones torture.

The federal framework says when there is a "substantial risk" that sending information to — or soliciting information from — a foreign agency would result in torture, the responsible deputy minister or agency head should be consulted.

In deciding what to do, the agency head is supposed to consider factors such as the threat to national security and the nature and imminence of the threat; the status of Canada's relationship with — and the human rights record of — the foreign agency; and the rationale for believing that sharing the information would lead to torture. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maher Arar

Maher Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian, was detained in New York in 2002 and sent overseas by U.S. authorities, ending up in a filthy Damascus prison. Under torture, he gave false confessions about involvement with al-Qaida.

For more on the report from the U.S. Senate intelligence committee, see pages 22-23.

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Apparent murder-suicide. Dance teacher recalls a meeting with slain actress

The first question Stephanie Moseley's former dance teacher asked the Vancouver-born actress when the cable TV star last dropped by her old studio was about her gleaming engagement ring.

"She said, 'If you look him up, don't judge him by his music,"' Rachel Poirier recalled Moseley quickly defending her then-fiancé, a Los Angeles rapper named Earl Hayes.

"I said, 'He's nice?' And she said 'Yeah, he's nice. His music doesn't reflect his personality."'

Three years later, Moseley, 30, and her estranged husband Hayes, 34, were both found fatally shot in what the L.A. Police Department had initially concluded was a murder-suicide.

U.S. authorities said in a statement that patrol officers responded to a call for a possible shooting about 7:30 a.m. Monday at a California luxury apartment complex. Officers heard more shots being fired as they arrived. Tactical police found two bodies inside.

In this 2012 file photo, Canadian actress Stephanie Moseley attends a charity event in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

An early investigation revealed the pair were trying to reconcile in the days before Hayes apparently shot his wife and then turned the gun on himself, Det. Scott Masterson said on Tuesday.

Moseley was featured in 12 episodes of the American VH1 drama series "Hit the Floor," about a professional basketball dance squad, according to the entertainment database IMDB.com. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawsuit. Veterans charter a 'Liberal policy': Harper

The new veterans charter, a marquee deal defended and championed by Stephen Harper's Conservatives since 2006, suddenly became a "Liberal policy" Tuesday as the government weathered more demands for Julian Fantino's resignation.

The veterans affairs minister, who was on his feet constantly during the previous day's question period, rose infrequently on Tuesday in the face of an unrelenting barrage of NDP and Liberal attacks.

Instead, he was defended by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who tried to put some political distance between his government and a class-action lawsuit in B.C. that argues the charter is unconstitutional and discriminatory against modern veterans.

The charter was conceived and passed by Paul Martin's Liberals with the support of all parties. It was put into force by Harper's Conservatives as one of their first acts after forming a minority government in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Resettling refugees

UNHCR urges Canada to increase commitment to Syrian refugees

A global call for help resettling more than 100,000 Syrian refugees over the next two years must be answered in part by Canada, the United Nations refugee agency representative in Ottawa says.

The latest appeal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees represents an opportunity, Furio De Angelis said.

The UNHCR made a special pitch at meetings in Geneva on Tuesday for countries to help resettle more than 100,000 refugees from the Syrian civil war by 2016.

Though 25 countries made pledges to open more spaces, Canada was not among them.

"We will make announcements about further commitments at a future date," said Kevin Menard, a spokesman for Immigration Minister Chris Alexander. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No additional troops

Canada not part of expanded Iraq mission: Officials

The federal government says Canada is not part of a group of nations sending an additional 1,500 troops to Iraq to serve as advisers to local forces in their fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

A senior U.S. commander announced this week that unnamed allied nations working alongside the United States had agreed to send the additional personnel to speed training of Iraqi forces. But a representative for Defence Minister Rob Nicholson said Wednesday that Canada was not part of this effort and that, for now, the 69 Canadian soldiers currently working in Iraq would be the extent of Canada's contribution to assist ground forces.

Military commanders have said the air campaign is only a stopgap until ground forces can be trained and sent into action to reclaim territory from the ISIL. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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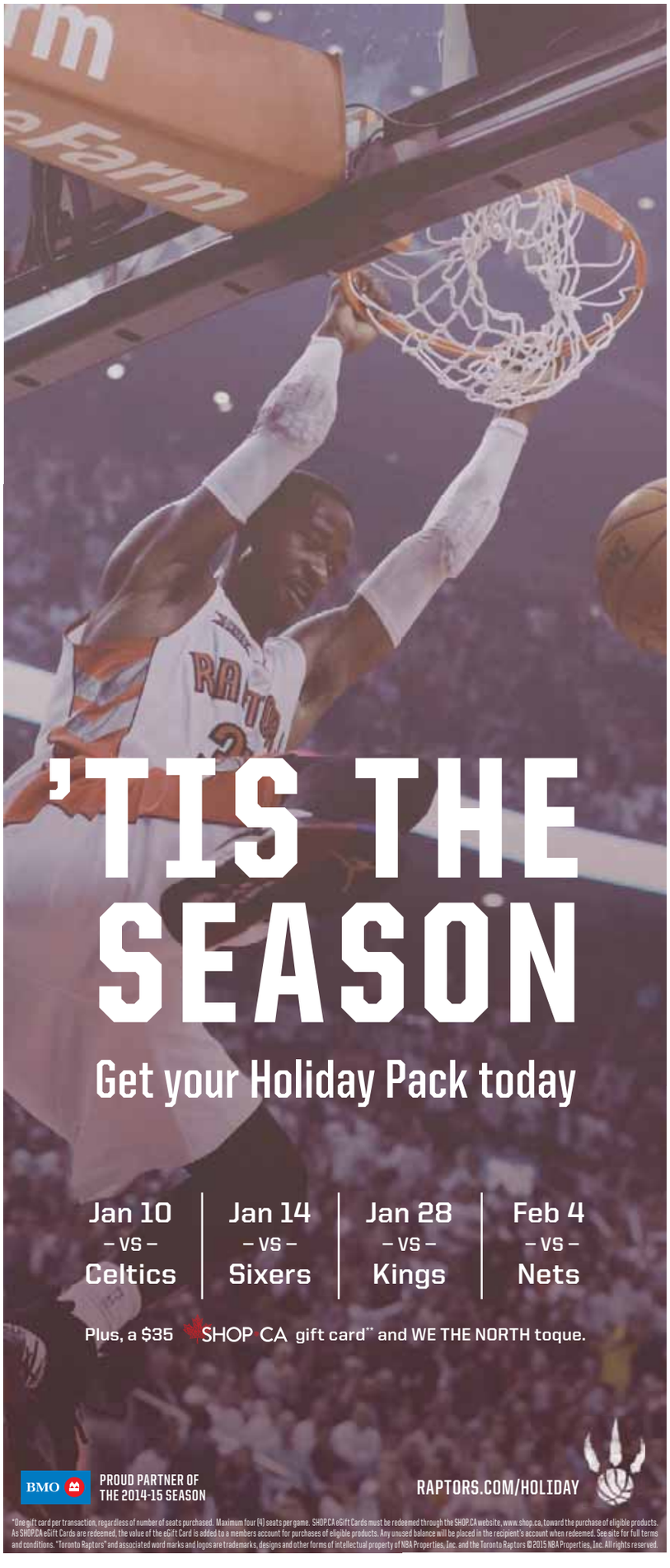

One of the long-lost vacation photos that was returned to Emily D'Mello of Surrey, B.C., who lost her camera underwater in Cuba three years ago. From left, Madisen Singer, Emily D'Mello and Hailey Olson. CONTRIBUTED

Woman reunited with lost photos

Facebook. Scuba diver in Cuba found B.C. vacationer's camera and profile years later

THANDI FLETCHER
Metro in Vancouver

When Emily D'Mello felt her camera slip out of her fingers into the ocean three years ago, she thought she'd lost her vacation photos forever.

"My dad had bought me this drop-proof, waterproof camera because I tend to break things," she told Metro, adding with a laugh: "But I still ended up losing it."

The Surrey, B.C., woman was vacationing with friends in Varadero, Cuba, in December 2011 when she was hit by a wave on the beach that knocked the camera from her hands.

"We looked for it for about 20 minutes but it was long gone," she said.

But last week, D'Mello received an early Christmas present when she checked her Facebook inbox.

There, she was stunned to find one of the long-lost photos along with a message from Ruben Urquiza, who identified himself as a scuba diver in Cuba who had found her camera in the ocean about a year ago.

"I just thought it was insane," she said with a laugh. "It's like one of those things that you see on Facebook and think, 'That's not real.'"

Although the camera was "pretty damaged," the memory card inside had been preserved and, along with it, D'Mello's vacation photos and videos.

Urquiza, who didn't immediately have Internet access, told her that he eventually managed to track her down online after finding identifying information on one of the images.

"I think I took a picture of my plane ticket, which had my name on it," she recalled.

On Tuesday, D'Mello said she was still in shock. She hopes to one day return to Cuba with her friends and to thank Urquiza in person.

In the meantime, she said she plans on sending a Christmas present to show him her gratitude.

"It's so awesome," she said. "I don't care about the camera. It's just so nice that, almost three years later, I'm getting to see all these photos again."

Urine found in water cooler at Newfoundland hospital

Health officials in eastern Newfoundland say it appears someone poured urine into the tower of a hospital water cooler used by staff and patients.

The Eastern Health Authority says the incident occurred between Nov. 24 and Dec. 2 at an outpatient clinic at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital in St. John's.

David Diamond, president and CEO of Eastern Health, says a substance later confirmed to be urine was discovered in the water cooler on the ambulatory treatment unit on the third floor of the hospital on Dec. 3.

Eastern Health says the supplier of the water cooler confirmed the cooler has safeguards to ensure that liquid spilled into its tower does not contaminate the water bottle or dispenser.

Diamond says there is no health risk if people consumed water from the cooler.

Police have been notified and other water coolers have been tested and showed no signs of contamination.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical pot users peeved

'Bad taste'.
Commercial medical marijuana producer's tongue-in-cheek media release no laughing matter to patients

TREVOR GREENWAY
Metro in Ottawa

Some medical marijuana patients are upset over a recent media release sent out by Tweed Inc. that they say makes light of their debilitating illnesses.

In the release, the commercial medical marijuana producer evokes holiday marketing, stating, "As people around the country prepare their homes for the holiday season, Tweed is decking the halls with a slightly different variety of greenery."

While the company says the release was meant to inject some humour into a serious matter, those who suffer from multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia and cancer aren't laughing.

"You are supposed to be a pharmacy to me and provide me my life-saving medication, and I'm not joking about it," said Ottawa resident Suzi Strand, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia and trigeminal neuralgia.

Other patients weighed in on Facebook, saying the release was in "bad taste," especially since some patients actually need marijuana to survive.

Quoted

"I'm not in a wheelchair right now because of cannabis. I am not dead from accidental overdose today because of cannabis. There is nothing funny about it."

Suzi Strand, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia and trigeminal neuralgia

Some said they could understand it more if it was a pot shop promoting their product in Colorado where it is a legal recreational drug, but because it's strictly a medicine in Canada, patients saw it as an "unethical" way to promote the business.

"This spin shows how the MMPR system was designed for 'customers' not 'patients,'" wrote patient Heather Cox. "We are not looking for a cool gift — we are looking for safe and effective medical treatment that won't kill us."

According to Mark Zekulin, Tweed executive vice-president, the company has not heard any complaints from its customers, but said he was concerned if others had taken offence to the release.

"If every once in a while we try to use a slightly lighter entrance point into the conversation, it's always with the best intentions of trying to move the dialogue forward on education and research," he said.

Curb emissions?

Harper calls oil and gas regs 'crazy economic policy'

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has slammed the door on regulating Canada's oil and gas sector, calling it a "crazy economic policy" under current global oil prices.

His comments in the House of Commons come as international talks are underway in Lima, Peru, in an effort to reach a new post-2020 global agreement on curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Harper was emphatic that Canada will not move unilaterally to curb fast-rising emissions from Alberta's oilsands.

"Frankly, Mr. Speaker, under the current circumstances of the oil and gas sector it would be crazy, it would be crazy economic policy to do unilateral penalties on that sector. We're clearly not going to do that," Harper told the House as Conservative MPs roared their approval.

"In fact, nobody in the world is regulating their oil and gas sector."

An Environment Canada briefing memo revealed last month by the Globe and Mail shows that the United States, in fact, placed what were called "significant" limits on its oil and gas sector in 2012.

"For oil and gas, recent air pollution regulations are expected to result in significant GHG reduction co-benefits, comparable to the reductions that would result from the approach being developed for this sector in Canada," states the June 2013 memo obtained by Greenpeace under an Access to Information request.

The Conservative government has been promising to regulate the oil and gas sector since 2007 as part of its sector-by-sector approach to curbing emissions, an approach the government calls a made-in-Canada plan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

All aboard the HugTrain!

Arie Moyal poses for a photo at the Via Rail station in Halifax on Tuesday during his Hug Train tour. The 34-year-old Montreal native is spreading the love with his sixth annual hug campaign, where he travels around North America for six weeks by train during Christmas time, hugging complete strangers. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

U.S. brutalized suspects for no gain in security: Torture report

Misleading. Senate committee says CIA deceived U.S. about methods' effectiveness

The United States brutalized scores of terror suspects with interrogation tactics that turned secret Central Intelligence Agency prisons into chambers of suffering and did nothing to make America safer after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Senate investigators concluded Tuesday.

The Senate Intelligence Committee's torture report, years in the making, accused the CIA of misleading its political masters about what it was doing with its "black site" captives and deceiving the nation about the effectiveness of its techniques. The report was the first public accounting of tactics employed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and it described far harsher actions than had been widely known.

Tactics included confinement to small boxes, weeks of sleep deprivation, simulated drowning, slapping and slamming, and threats to kill, harm or sexually abuse families of the captives.

But the "enhanced interrogation techniques" didn't produce the results that really mattered, the report asserts in its most controversial conclusion. It cites CIA cables, emails and interview transcripts to rebut the central justification for torture — that it thwarted terror plots and saved American lives.

In a statement, CIA Director John Brennan said the agency made mistakes and has learned from them. But he also asserted the coercive techniques "did produce intelligence that helped thwart attack plans, capture terrorists and save lives."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is surrounded by reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday as she leaves the Senate chamber after releasing a report on the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques at secret overseas facilities. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I will continue to use my authority as president to make sure we never resort to those methods again."

U.S. President Barack Obama

"We gave up much in the expectation that torture would make us safer. Too much."

Sen. John McCain, who, unlike most of his fellow Republicans, welcomed the report and endorsed its findings

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CIA program exposed

Six major findings from the newly released summary of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report on the CIA's detention and interrogation program

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Torture did not lead to tips

Enhanced interrogation techniques used on terror detainees, including simulated drowning and sleep deprivation, were ineffective in gaining intelligence that led to important operations, including the 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound.

Prison conditions more brutal than public knew

The prison conditions and harsh interrogations of detainees were more brutal than the CIA officials acknowledged to the American public and in contacts with Congress and the White House.

The simulated drowning technique of waterboarding was "physically harmful," with effects that included vomiting and convulsions. At least one terror detainee died of exposure in an overseas prison.

Unreliable information shared

Much of the information that the CIA provided to the media about its interrogation and detentions program was inaccurate, preventing clear scrutiny of detainees' treatment.

Program created by inexperienced psychologists

The agency's use of coercive interrogations was based on a program developed by two psychologists who had no experience in interrogations or counterterrorism. The CIA never conducted a comprehensive analysis of the program's effectiveness.

CIA avoided management

The CIA actively impeded or avoided congressional oversight. CIA senior officials repeatedly gave inaccurate information to congressional leaders and at one point under-counted the number of terror detainees who were subjected to harsh treatment under questioning.

CIA gave false info to Bush administration

CIA officials often gave inaccurate information about its interrogation program to Bush administration White House and legal officials, preventing a proper legal analysis of the prison operations. Bush legal officials relied on erroneous CIA data to codify the use of waterboarding and nine other enhanced interrogation techniques.

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Over three years later

Al-Qaida French hostage freed

A Frenchman held for over three years by al-Qaida's North African branch was freed Tuesday, days after two men implicated in his abduction were reportedly let out of a prison in Mali.

Negotiations by Niger, Mali and France led to freedom for Serge Lazarevic, 51, who the French president said is in "relatively good health." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Says no to IRA links

Sinead O'Connor joins Sinn Fein

Sinead O'Connor, long a critic of church and state in Ireland, says she's joining the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party and wants its leaders to step aside for younger voices free of IRA connections.

The 48-year-old singer says Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, who oversaw the outlawed Irish Republican Army, should retire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rape accusations

Uber executive questioned by Indian police

Indian police questioned an Uber executive Tuesday about the company's background checks after one of its New Delhi drivers was accused of rape.

The accuser is a 26-year-old woman who hired an Uber ride home from a dinner engagement Friday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acquitted of murder

Judge to rule on appeal against Pistorius decision

A South African judge will decide Wednesday on whether to allow prosecutors to appeal the verdict and sentence in the case against Oscar Pistorius, who was acquitted of the murder of his girlfriend.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel says the judge erred in her interpretation of the law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yousafzai and Satyrathi warm up streets of Oslo

Joint-Nobel Peace prize winners Malala Yousafzai, left, and Kailash Satyarthi in Oslo, Norway, Tuesday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be shared between the two in Oslo on Wednesday. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nobel Peace Prize. Co-winners highlight the need to educate children, overcome national differences

Nobel Peace Prize winners Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan and Kailash Satyarthi of India on Tuesday stressed the importance of uniting people across borders and religions by educating children and freeing them from poverty.

The 17-year-old Malala, who was shot in the head two years ago in Pakistan for insisting that girls have as much right to education as boys, says it is "not only the right but the duty of children" to be educated.

Sitting alongside Malala, the youngest Nobel winner ever, the 60-year-old Satyarthi told their news conference that even if a single child is denied education "we cannot say we are enlightened."

The Nobel laureates, who split the $1.1 million award, were cited for working to protect children from slavery, extremism and child labour at great risk to their own lives. The visit by Malala and Satyarthi has drawn hundreds of people into the freezing streets of Oslo hoping to get a glimpse of the laureates.

Martin Slotnes, a Norwegian living in Australia who was visiting the city with his wife and children, said it was the first time he had taken an interest in the peace prize.

"Her story moves me," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Countries do have borders. It doesn't mean that you should hate each other."

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel laureate about India-Pakistan relations

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MH17 wreckage parts arrive in the Netherlands

People line the road to watch a convoy of trucks carrying parts of the wreckage of downed Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 arrive from Ukraine at Gilze-Rijen military base, Netherlands, Tuesday. The Boeing 777 plummeted from high altitude over eastern Ukraine on July 17 2014, killing all 298 passengers and crew on board. Two-thirds of the victims hailed from the Netherlands, from where the Dutch government is now leading the investigation.
PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Massacre. Court throws out case against former SS

A German court on Tuesday threw out the case against a former SS man accused of involvement in the largest civilian massacre in Nazi-occupied France, saying there was not enough evidence to bring the 89-year-old man to trial.

Cologne resident "Werner C." was charged with murder and accessory to murder in connection with the 1944 slaughter of 642 civilians in Oradour-sur-Glane in southwestern France.

The Cologne state court said no witness statements disprove the suspect's contention that he was present but did not take part, nor is there any reliable documentary evidence that he was involved in the massacre.

Werner C. was part of an SS company which, days after the D-Day landings in Normandy, attacked Oradour-sur-Glane in reprisal for the French Resistance's kidnapping of a German soldier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine. Tuesday's truce raises hope of longer peace

Government troops and Russian-backed separatists largely suspended hostilities in Ukraine on Tuesday, raising hopes of a peaceful settlement in the seven-month conflict that's taken thousands of lives.

The lull in fighting followed a proposal by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko for a "day of silence" as a bid to revive a largely ignored ceasefire deal reached in September.

The war has left more than 4,300 people dead, displaced hundreds of thousands and exhausted a nation struggling to stave off economic collapse.

As Ukraine enters winter, when temperatures can drop below freezing for days if not weeks on end, combat fatigue is showing on both sides. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man killed by police had bipolar disorder

Brooklyn. Calvin Peters was shot dead after stabbing a student

An undated photo of Levi Rosenblat.
CHABAD.ORG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An emotionally disturbed man stabbed an Israeli student in the head at an international Jewish organization in Brooklyn, N.Y., early Tuesday, then was shot and killed by a police officer after lunging at him with a knife, authorities said.

Calvin Peters, 49, can be seen on amateur video of the confrontation waving a knife in the Chabad-Lubavitch headquarters in Crown Heights after police say he attacked Levi Rosenblat, who was studying inside, according to Chabad-Lubavitch spokesman Rabbi Motti Seligson.

Rosenblat was stabbed in the temple and was expected to survive.

A jerky clip of the confrontation posted online shows Peters in a waist-length jacket and hat with a knife in his right hand, surrounded by officers with drawn weapons and Jewish students wearing traditional Orthodox clothing.

Some of them appear to be trying to defuse the situation, urging Peters to calm down and asking officers not to shoot him.

Peters eventually puts the knife down at an officer's urging and steps away, but quickly picks it up again as the officer approaches him, apparently in an attempt to arrest him. Officers then yell at him to drop the knife as Peters moves around unpredictably.

Out of view of the camera, a single gunshot is heard. Police say Peters lunged at the officer with the knife and was fatally shot once by an officer.

Peters had a documented history of mental illness and had been arrested 19 times since 1982 police said. He had also been to the Chabad-Lubavitch before.

Police said detectives are investigating, but don't suspect terrorism.

Attorney Jeffrey A. St. Clair said from the Peters family's front door that the man had a history of bipolar disorder.

"Calvin Peters was a loving and devoted father," said St. Clair.

"And the family is quite frankly shocked and disappointed at what happened. Our prayers go out to the person that was injured."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shelter from Hagupit

Typhoon evacuees walk home with their sheets and pillows after spending two nights in an evacuation centre at Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines, on Tuesday. A storm that began as a frighteningly powerful typhoon started to blow away from the Philippines Tuesday, after leaving at least 21 people dead and forcing more than a million into shelters. Typhoon Hagupit dissipated into a tropical depression after crossing Lubang Island and was blowing into the South China Sea, forecasters said. BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report on Gaza strikes

Israel accused of war crimes

Amnesty International says Israel apparently committed war crimes when it flattened four landmark buildings during its military operation in Gaza last summer. It said the airstrikes amounted to "the deliberate targeting of civilian objects" — a "serious violation" of the international rules of war. Over 50 days of fighting, Israel carried out hundreds of airstrikes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem tensions

Poll: Palestinians support attacks

An overwhelming majority of Palestinians support a spate of attacks on Israelis amid heightened tensions over the most sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, according to a poll released Tuesday. It found more than half support an uprising against Israel and that Hamas would win elections if held today. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Amazon. Buyers can make offers below listing price

Amazon wants you to make an offer sellers won't want to refuse.

For the first time, the largest U.S. online retailer is letting some third-party sellers offer an option where interested buyers can make an offer on an item lower than the listed price.

The seller can then accept, counter or reject the offer. The new service comes in the midst of the busy holiday shopping season, which can account for 20 per cent of annual revenues.

About 150,000 of the millions of items for sale on Amazon are eligible for the service, but that will expand to more third-party sellers in 2015. It is not available for the items that Amazon sells directly.

The eligible products are mainly collectibles, including sports and entertainment collectibles such as signed jerseys, posters and helmets, fine art paintings and historical documents.

The service lets "sellers looking to communicate and negotiate directly with customers in an online marketplace environment just like they do normally in their own physical store or gallery," said Peter Faricy, vice-president of Amazon Marketplace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 87.41 (+0.32)

Natural gas: $3.65 US (+0.05)
Dow Jones: 17,801.20 (-51.28)

TSX 14, 195.73 (+51.56)

OIL $63.82 US (+0.77¢)

GOLD $1,232 US (+37.10)

Ottawa tackles price gap for goods sold in Canada, U.S.

Two-year-old Finn Mowder in audience as Industry Minister James Moore, background, makes an announcement in a toy store in Toronto on Tuesday. Moore announced legislation aimed at ensuring prices in Canada are not unfairly higher than those in the U.S. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Price Transparency Act. Legislation meant to name and shame those manufacturers that sell goods for more north of border

The federal government has announced new legislation that is meant to tackle the persistent price gap between goods in the U.S. and Canada.

The Price Transparency Act, tabled in Ottawa Tuesday, is designed to "name and shame" manufacturers and distributors that demand higher prices for goods in Canada, Industry Minister James Moore said.

"This legislation will not set or regulate prices in Canada," he told reporters at a news conference held at a Toys R Us store in Etobicoke.

The announcement follows through on a commitment the government made in its 2014 budget, following a Senate investigation into the reasons for the pricing gap.

The legislation would give the federal Competition Commissioner the power to collect evidence on so-called cross-border price gouging and publicly report its findings.

The commissioner would have tools to investigate cases of alleged price discrimination and the power to demand evidence to expose discriminatory pricing practices.

"We think this is an effective tool" that will result in "immediate downward pressure on prices," Moore said. "We believe those who are engaging in this practice … will abandon it."

While there are some legitimate cost differences between selling U.S. and Canadian goods, studies have shown that Canadians routinely pay between 10 and 25 per cent more than U.S. shoppers for television sets, cars and tires. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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VOICES

THEY EVEN SMILE CAREFULLY

While trying to dredge any meaning or purpose of yet another British royal visit to America may seem like a tedious exercise in earnestness, as British Monarchy 2.0, Will and Kate deserve credit for saving the brand. Wait, what was the brand again?

PAUL SULLIVAN
readers@metronews.ca

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, a.k.a. Will and Kate, have just finished wandering amiably, if somewhat aimlessly, around Manhattan, leading us all once again to wonder why.

I mean what was the point? To hang out with Jay-Z and Beyoncé at courtside to watch LeBron James? To make a speech about trafficking in endangered animal parts? To lay yet another wreath at the 9/11 memorial? To see how Kate handles being five months pregnant (with her usual poise and aplomb)?

Trying to dredge any meaning or purpose of yet another British royal visit to America may seem like a tedious exercise in earnestness. They're a nice enough young couple, which in itself is worth applauding when you consider other members of the family, including the Duke's own brother, Sir Harry Hijinks, or his dad, the Prince of Embarrassing Things.

So rather than leave Americans with a bad taste in their mouths from the last royal visit — Harry's assault on Vegas which failed to stay in Vegas — why not send that nice young couple? Everyone smiles and bows and then they go home for more of the same: Deferential adoration.

As British Monarchy 2.0, Will and Kate deserve credit for saving the brand — which is great until we start asking, "So what's the brand, again?" The bad old days made sense: Back when Charles and Diana were poisoning each other's PR and a Texas financier was sucking the Duchess of York's toes, the monarchy was collapsing like the corrupt spent force we all assumed it had become.

METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Bobbleheads of state

As Paul McCartney famously wrote: 'Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl but she doesn't have a lot to say.' Which goes double for Will and Kate ...

But now that the artlessly dignified couple has pulled its ashes out of the fire, the monarchy has become a force again. Three-quarters of her Majesty's subjects believe that it will survive at least until little Prince George is old enough to be king. Not so long ago, when Diana was getting riding lessons from the cavalry, the House of Windsor was under self-inflicted siege.

Too bad this post-modern Restoration takes us back to the safe, stuffy and utterly pointless exercise it had become under Queen E II. As Paul McCartney famously wrote: "Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl but she doesn't have a lot to say." Which goes double for Will and Kate, who even smile carefully. Is that what the British people want for their annual royal subsidy of 36 million pounds? Closer to home, is that what Canadians want from our bobbleheads of state?

Poor Will is reduced to sticking up for a few other endangered animals, because he's constitutionally barred from saying anything about the real issues: Home-grown terrorism, unemployment, immigration — you know, the actual news headlines arranged around the celebrity photos of Kate's latest thrilling frock.

Ironic, isn't it?

The more civil the behaviour, the less relevant the Royal.

Maybe it's time to let Harry and Aunt Sarah out of the bag again and send them somewhere interesting, like Cannes or Rio.

It may be short, but it could be sweet.

More than just books: Why libraries empower us all

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Take a look at our libraries, and you can read us like a book. Mention public services, and the mind leaps to healthcare or police, or maybe garbage collection, transit or road repairs. Mention a library, and many people will think of a dusty building filled with endless shelves of battered tomes. They'd be wrong, at least nowadays.

But library services need to be at the forefront of modern public services, sweeping away that dusty old image, and here's why. Libraries are far more important than many people think. They unlock our potential to learn, and modern times have seen them branch out to far more than just books.

In Toronto, for example, public library staff report that 72 per cent of citizens visited a library within the past year, with individual "uses" — and that's in every imaginable way — hitting almost 97 million in 2013. Interestingly, the city's engagement with paper books has been dropping steadily. In the decade to 2013, use of collections in-person at libraries dropped by 27.3 per cent. But the use of electronic collections, including e-books, doubled in 2011, then 2012 and again in 2013. They now represent 10 per cent of the circulation of books in Toronto's libraries.

Sweeping away that old dusty image

Mention a library, and many people will think of a dusty building filled with endless shelves of battered tomes. They'd be wrong, at least nowadays.

The trend is not limited to big cities. In neighbourhoods across Canada, libraries are feeding the appetite for information in the information age.

A library is still a way to find information, but you can also make connections, attend events, hear music, access the Internet and more. There are educational programs, art exhibits, reading clubs, talks and social gatherings. You can find 3-D printers, toys and havens for newcomers, new mothers and the elderly. Canada spends more than $1 billion a year on libraries from public funds, at different levels of government, and has done so every year since 2008-09, according to Statistics Canada, and that shows the degree to which we value these institutions.

Calgary's building a beautiful new central library, at a cost of $245 million, with a four-storey central atrium and a huge skylight to shed light on the more than half a million books the place will hold when it's completed in 2018. Halifax's new central library, costing more than $50 million, opens next week, and the excitement level is high.

Investment in library services is a measure of a society, and Canada's investment is in the future. With newcomers pouring in every year — in 2013, this country welcomed more than 270,000 new permanent residents alone — the need to learn is greater than ever before.

When the people of Canada improve themselves, Canada improves. So, as municipalities get ready to set their budgets for the coming year, they need to be kind to their libraries.

It's an investment in us all.

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METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Jessica Alba ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Sony hack reveals how celebs give aliases a bad name

The Sony hack is the gift that keeps on giving for fans of entertainment industry schadenfreude. While we certainly don't condone employees having their Social Security Numbers released or families threatened via email, there has been a certain degree of pleasure in seeing how they really feel about Adam Sandler movies. And the latest bit of info may be the best.

A document has surfaced featuring contact information used during filming, including the fake names celebrities go by to remain undetected. And oh my, these are fantastic.

Some sound like dime-store detectives — ahem, Tom Hanks — while some like porn stars — looking at you, Tobey Maguire.

Some, like Ice Cube, just use their real-life names, which is boring. And Taye Diggs apparently just wants people to think he's someone related to Taye Diggs.

But the absolute best? Jessica Alba, who apparently goes by the code name Cash Money.

Here's the list:

- Tom Hanks: Harry Lauder and Johnny Madrid
- Sarah Michelle Gellar: Neely O'Hara
- Tobey Maguire: Neil Deep
- Natalie Portman: Lauren Brown
- Clive Owen: Robert Fenton
- Rob Schneider: Nazzo Good
- Taye Diggs: Scott Diggs
- Jude Law: Mr. Perry
- Daniel Craig: Olwen Williams
- Ice Cube: Darius Stone and O'Shea Jackson
- Debra Messing: Ava Harper
- Jessica Alba: Cash Money

Ariana's naughty aside a nice surprise for Sheeran

Apparently while everyone else was watching models strut the runway during the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, Ariana Grande was making Ed Sheeran crack up with some risqué humour. "Can I tell you why I was laughing?" Sheeran explains in an interview with Elvis Duran. "Basically, there were all these big inflatable bouncy black balls that are bouncing around in the crowd on the finale bit. Ariana Grande comes and stands up next to me and just looks at me and goes, 'I love big black balls.' In my head I was like, 'If she knows what that means, then I love her, and if she doesn't know what that means, it's even better.'"

I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess that she does in fact know what that means.

Grumpy Cat purrs down a cool $100M? Surly not!

Tell the Internet it can calm down, because that report in the Express about online sensation Grumpy Cat pulling in $100 million? Let's just file that under "wildly inaccurate."

Proud owner of Grumpy Cat, Tabatha Bundesen, tells the paper, "I was able to quit my job as a waitress within days of her first appearance on social media, and the phone simply hasn't stopped ringing since," which is either hyperbole or a terrifying way to live. But Bundesen tells the Huffington Post that while Grumpy Cat has pulled in plenty of cash thanks to appearances, endorsements and a new Lifetime Christmas movie, the Express is way off with its $100 million claim.

But Lil Bub? That guy's totally a billionaire.

Grumpy Cat

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Skulduggery, greed and sex: This Marco Polo is no game

Streaming. Think GOT with martial arts as Netflix series follows 13th-century explorer on the Silk Road to the court of Kublai Kahn

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Olivia Cheng, left, and Joan Chen star in a 10-part Netflix series about Marco Polo. PHIL BRAY FOR NETFLIX

A year ago, Edmonton-born actress Olivia Cheng says she was familiar with Marco Polo as an Italian traveller "and I obviously knew about the swimming pool game, but that is about it."

Now, as the star of the new Netflix adventure series about Polo's early years, she's captivated by the story.

"When I saw the first script I said, 'Where's the second script? Then the third, fourth, fifth…'"

The handsome 10-episode season follows Polo's travels on the Silk Road to the court of Mongolian emperor Kublai Kahn.

It's a study of political skulduggery, greed and sexual politics, 13th-century style.

Imagine Game of Thrones with martial arts and an international cast headed by Rick The Fast and the Furious Yune and Joan Chen and you get the idea.

"All of my stuff was shot in studio in Malaysia," says Cheng, who spent five months on location.

"I've never had an opportunity to immerse myself so fully in a role and be able to focus like that. You're almost in a cocoon or a bubble, where you are constantly thinking about the story, constantly thinking about the nuances. I would often walk from set to set watching different scenes. I just got to immerse myself in the world of Marco Polo and experience a cultural adventure that I'm really grateful for."

The actress, who also plays Linda Park on Arrow and The Flash, says the show's elaborately tailored wardrobe helped her find the character of Mei Lin, a royal concubine and martial arts expert.

"When you have the beautiful costumes, you are able to step into a world and suddenly it informs you," she says.

"That is a huge gift as an actor because a costume can make you move a certain way; you are in your body in a certain way because of the weight of the material. For me, I felt like it made me so much more graceful. You have to be, in order not to trip in those costumes."

But just as interesting as watching the world of Marco Polo being built was a scene where she tries to pull it all apart.

"I can't tell you how amazing it was to get to film White Moon — this epic fight scene with 200 extras all dressed in white," she says.

"I felt so grateful because I saw all the effort it took to create this world for me to run in and try and destroy it."

TV. Leoni head over heels for Madam Secretary role

It took surprisingly little for Tea Leoni to take on a lead role in a network television show — which she did for the freshman political drama Madam Secretary — just word from her kids that they'd rather not have her around the house that much.

"I'd been struggling for a while with this idea of committing to something that could be — potentially, we hope — a long endeavour," she remembers. "I was walking across the street with my son, who's 12, and I said, 'I'm thinking about doing this thing. If I do this, I could be very busy for a while.' He looks up at me and is like, 'Mom, it's totally fine.' I was like, 'Really?' And he says, 'Yeah. We were really getting sick of you anyway.' So it was great to have that blessing, honestly."

On the series, Leoni plays U.S. Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord, and she admits that a lot of people have jumped to a pretty obvious conclusion when it comes to her model for the character — former Secretary of State and presumptive presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. But she insists they're completely off-base.

"I've certainly been asked if I met with Hillary. And obviously it's the blonde hair, right off the bat. I swore, I said, 'No, it's Kissinger,' but whatever," Leoni jokes. "The truth is the first place in my mind that I went was not toward a particular political figure or in particular a female Secretary of State, since we've had three. I thought more about my grandmother — who founded the U.S. fund for UNICEF, who was the volunteer president for almost 30 years and raised five kids and 27 grandchildren — and what it was for her to be travelling around the world and coming home and being a mother. I think about my friends who are up to it, who are working mothers and what that's about."

Tea Leoni CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

"I've certainly been asked if I met with Hillary. And obviously it's the blonde hair, right off the bat. I swore, I said, 'No, it's Kissinger,' but whatever."

Tea Leoni, jokes about assumptions her Madam Secretary is based on Hillary Clinton

Leoni, for her part, finds Secretary McCord incredibly easy to relate to. "I certainly do when I think about the heels that I'm wearing and the hours that I keep and my children at home. Those three things are very much the same," she says.

"The shoes, God damn it, can we just talk about the shoes? I tell you, that's the hardest part of my job. I am in high heels for sometimes 17 hours in a day. My feet are killing me. I don't know how we do it. I can't even imagine how John Kerry's handling it."

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Surviving the Walking Dead hiatus

(Note: Spoiler alert!) We're halfway through the fifth season of The Walking Dead, and the body count has been relatively low for the show, considering its history and the size of its cast.

Sure, we just lost Beth in rather dramatic fashion, plus Bob earlier in the season and a whole bunch of Terminus cannibals. But come on, this is the zombie apocalypse we're talking about here.

While we wait for the series' return in February, let's look at who has the best chance of making it to Season 6. We're ranking the characters on a survival scale of one to 10, with one being practically already a Walker and 10 being safe and sound.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

SURVIVAL CHANCES

10

Baby Judith

What kind of a monster are you?

Michonne

As much of a fan favourite as Daryl, and she's taken too much of a backseat so far this season to kill off. Surely they wouldn't do that to us.

Daryl Dixon

As much as Rick is the face of the show, Daryl is the heart — at least as far as diehard fans are concerned. If anyone's going to make it all the way through this show alive, it's him.

9

Rick Grimes

Yeah, he's not going anywhere any time soon, not since they reunited him with his baby in Season 5, but they haven't given him much screen time at all with her or Carl so far. Unless the second half of the season is Grimes-heavy, in which case maybe they're building up to a shocking finale.

Carl Grimes

Oh, come on, the boy? He's only just starting to come into his own, and his development as a hard-talking apocalypse survivor still has a lot of places to go. Still, if they really wanted to send Rick off the deep end…

8

Carol Peletier

Speaking of Daryl, so much work has gone into developing his boon companion Carol's character from battered wife to basically Rambo that she might have seemed to be headed for a heroic but tragic death. But then they put a lot of effort into saving her life and rescuing her in the last few episodes, so that would just be mean at this point.

Tyreese

The group needs its big, violence-averse teddy bear, and Rick needs a capable babysitter. While Tyreese is totally the type to take one for the team, he's probably still got some time before he does.

6

Tara Chambler

That sense of humour might just be what helps keep her around, as nobody else is making with the inappropriate wisecracks this group so sorely needs.

5

Glenn Rhee

The voice of reason and resident good guy can only stick around so long, and the cast is getting pretty crowded. Still, we'd expect to see Glenn and Maggie get some more quality screen time before one of them bites it.

Maggie Greene

We give her about the same odds as Glenn, but if it's any consolation it will probably only be one or the other.

3

Sasha

She's really, really upset about Bob still — with good reason — and she's been giving a lot of steely-eyed stares lately. We could see her going down in a blaze of heroic glory once the show comes back.

Abraham Ford

He's been through the ringer with the revelation about Eugene being a big old liar, and we've gotten a lot of back story for him already this year, so he could be primed for a splashy exit by the end of the season.

2

Noah

He's pretty new, and he's still got some mistakes to make up for — nobody touches Daryl's crossbow! Does that mean a messy exit in the New Year? He certainly needs some time to make good on Beth's sacrifice for him.

Rosita Espinoza

She's gotten a fair amount of screen time in the first half of the season, and she's kind of occupying the same emotional and character space as a few others, so consider her back to have a big target on it going forward.

Eugene Porter

He's got to make up for that huge lie he got everyone to buy into, or at least he's a great source of tension within the group. He's a prime candidate.

1

Father Gabriel

We're honestly surprised he's made it this far. Expect this character's one note to be played to its logical conclusion before the finale.

Is our public healthcare system ailing?

Demand for health care is increasing — but so are the cuts

CONTRIBUTED

Canada has one of the most envied public healthcare systems in the world, but access is increasingly a problem. Too many Canadians are waiting too long for the healthcare services and treatments they need. The growing demands of the aging population will only increase the strain on the system.

For starters, there aren't enough nurses and other healthcare professionals to meet that growing demand. Canada is also facing a shortage of 86,000 long-term care beds for seniors over the next 10 years. As for the population at large, four million Canadians don't even have a family doctor.

Part of the problem is that there is a shortage of healthcare professionals, creating a need for a national strategy to recruit, train and retain more doctors and other healthcare professionals in the public system. But instead of investing in health care, the federal government is cutting more than $36 billion in funding. That will leave even more people without access to the healthcare services they need.

The labour movement has always supported a strong public healthcare system, and is working to convince the government to adopt a national health human resources strategy. It has also partnered with community groups at the local, provincial and national level to call for a reverse to the billions of dollars in cuts, and to convince the federal government to work with provinces and territories on a new Health accord that will expand coverage and improve access for all Canadians.

Through collective bargaining, the labour movement has won prescription drug coverage and other healthcare benefits for millions of Canadian workers and their families. But today, there are still more than three million Canadians who can't afford the medication they need.

Nobody should have to choose between filling prescriptions and paying their bills. That's why the labour movement is lobbying for a national universal pharmacare program. It's estimated that such a program would save public health care up to $11 billion a year through bulk purchasing and reduced administration costs.

Canadians also need better access to mental health services. One in five Canadians experience a mental health issue or illness each year — while only one in three Canadians who need mental health services actually receives them.

Canadians have learned enough from SARS and H1N1 to know that it's crucial for our healthcare system to be ready for any crisis. Healthcare workers are on the frontline and are often the first to see where the gaps are when it comes to fighting infectious diseases and epidemics. Recently, nurses turned to their union to help them sound the alarm about the need for better systems, protective equipment and training to prepare for a potential Ebola outbreak in Canada.

Everyone in Canada should have equal access to health care, when and where they need it. Access shouldn't depend on where someone lives or how much money they make. The labour movement understands that having a strong public healthcare system benefits all Canadians, as staying healthy means people are able to get to work, raise a family and contribute more to their communities.

To learn more about how the labour movement is helping to improve and expand health care for all Canadians, go to **fairnessworks.ca**.

THE MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY FOR CANADA

Countless people with mental health issues aren't getting the care they need and end up in emergency rooms looking for help. That's why the labour movement worked with the Mental Health Commission of Canada to help create the first national mental health strategy. For more information, visit **strategy.mentalhealthcommission.ca**.

TV. Star of Hawaii Five-0 talks about his not-too-shabby shooting location

Chi McBride, right, as Capt. Lou Grover on Hawaii Five-0. CONTRIBUTED

Chi McBride will be the first to admit that his hit series, Hawaii Five-0 has pretty much taken over Oahu.

"Literally you can't swing a dead cat on the island without hitting our production somewhere," he says. "People literally look for us at the airport — because we shoot at the airport. Hawaii's quite beautiful in and of itself. They certainly don't need Hawaii Five-0 to have a booming and successful business for tourism. But it don't hurt!"

And he wouldn't have it any other way, dead cats or none.

"I do love Hawaii, I love my place there," McBride says. "And I do love to play golf, which I do a lot in Hawaii. We're going to have Michelle Wei on the show (this season) and she's going to take a couple of us out to play golf. I'm personally looking forward to that because (series star) Alex (O'Laughlin) is a terrible golfer, and he's going to have to play. So one thing I know I'm going to say to him is, 'I bet you don't want to do your own stunts now, do you?'"

McBride has been having fun playing Capt. Lou Grover on the hit series, currently in its fifth season, though he keeps looking for some connection to the same character from the original 1970s version.

"I heard that this character was on the original show, and the only one I saw was the guy who had one line on a megaphone. There was somebody standing on a ledge, and Grover picked up a megaphone and said, 'Hold it right there!' And that's the only thing he ever did in the whole series," he says. "And every week I've been looking in the script for me with a megaphone saying, 'Hold it right there!' but it never happens, so I guess that's just a carrot that they're holding in front of me to stay on the show."

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

Series CPR

McBride has some pretty strong feelings about bringing old properties back to life, despite the success of his own show.

- "You can't remake The Three Stooges. Nobody should ever try to remake The Honeymooners. There's several of these vehicles like this that are iconic that you could get lucky with or you could fail, like, on an epic level," he says, possibly unaware that his network, CBS, is launching a new The Odd Couple next year.

Eat like a Euro of Hollywood

TV. Reality star Bleona Qereti gives us a sweet treat for the holidays, and explains that AMA dress that turned heads last month

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

The stars of the reality series Euros of Hollywood know how to create TV drama, but they have other talents.

Austrian Fawni is a pop star and painter, Albanian Bleona Qereti is a singer and recent red-carpet attention-grabber, and Denmark native Jannik Olander runs a successful jewelry company with a busy storefront on Melrose.

But taking on a reality series, as it turns out, is a full-time job in itself. "We would film for 12 hours straight, and then I would be going to the studio to record all night," Qereti tells Metro of balancing filming the series with her music career. "I wasn't sleeping much."

And some of them have multiple passions, as it turns out, like aspiring actor Massimo Dobrovic. Aside from also being a model and choreographer, Dobrovic is also a pretty impressive chef. He even prepared a special eight-course dinner for Metro to show off his Italian cuisine skills — and let us take his dessert recipe home with us so you can enjoy it, too.

Bleona Qereti works her curves on the red carpet. GETTY

Bleona explains her shocking AMA look

Euros of Hollywood co-star Bleona Qereti knows how to get people's attention, as she proved while attending the American Music Awards in an incredibly revealing see-through dress.

- "The dress is a haute couture dress designed by Shahla Dorriz with a body made from mom and dad," the Albanian singer says, according to Bravo. "The minute I saw it, I knew that was the one. The dress was sewn on my body since 9 a.m. (the day before). Thank God I took a shower before (the show), because it would have been the dirtiest red carpet I have ever done."
- As for comparisons to Rose McGowan, who wore a similarly see-through number to the MTV Video Music Awards back in the '90s? "I have no idea who she is," Qereti insists. "I just saw her face in the press next to mine for the first time in my life. True story."

A light and delicious dessert. ISTOCK

Massimo's Italian Tiramisu

* 14 oz. Savoiadri biscotti
* Two 8 oz. containers of mascarpone
- 1 1/3 cup of espresso
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 4 eggs, separated
- Pinch of salt
- Bitter cocoa for dusting

1. Beat egg yolks and sugar in a large bowl until pale and thick. Add the mascarpone and mix gently until very stiff.

2. Beat egg whites and a pinch of salt in a separate bowl until soft peaks form. Gently fold them into the mascarpone mixture.

3. Prepare the espresso, pour it into a shallow dish and let it cool down. Dip the Savoiardi quickly into the coffee one at a time and arrange them side by side, in a serving dish. Cover the biscuits with the mascarpone mixture. Use all the Savoiardi and the cream to form more layers.

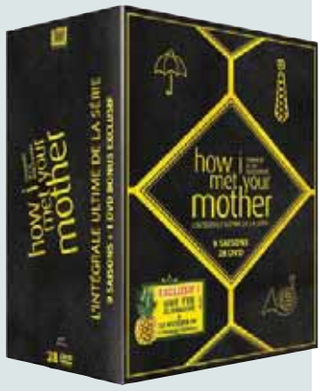
4. Top with a layer of marscarpone mixture. Dust the top with cocoa. Refrigerate, covered, for at least 4 hours before serving.

On March 31, the world finally learned how things ended for the protagonists of How I Met Your Mother, including Ted Mosby, the long-winded narrator who spent nine seasons telling his children their origin story. Here is a selection of gifts for friends of Ted, Robin, Marshall, Lily and Barney

AFP

5 gifts for How I Met Your Mother fans

The Complete Series DVD Boxed Set



For the first time, all nine seasons featuring the five friends are available on DVD in a single boxed set. Among the bonus features are an alternative ending to the controversial one revealed in March, as well as a deleted scene that explains the famous pineapple incident, a mystery that remained unsolved while the show was on TV.

The set is available from Amazon with a list price of $179.98.

Blue French horn

Another essential reference among HIMYM fans, this musical instrument is the quintessential symbol of Ted and Robin's relationship. In a demonstration of his love for her, Ted steals the horn, which they noticed in a restaurant during their first date.

A tree ornament presented in a wooden box and available from Cooltvprops.com for $24.95 pays homage to this romantic gesture. Other versions of the instrument are available on Amazon.

Ducky Tie

This is one gift that is totally "legen ... wait for it... dary!" A key reference among fans of the show, this is the tie that Barney Stinson had to wear for an entire year after losing a bet with Lily and Marshall.

CBS sells a replica through its online store for $24.95.

Yellow umbrella

Another of the sitcom's recurring items, the famous yellow umbrella was constantly passed back and forth between Ted Mosby and the future mother of his children. Each appearance of the accessory tried the patience of viewers, who were eager to finally see the mysterious character's face.

A version with the show's logo, also available through the CBS online store, is priced at $18.50.

Let's Go to the Mall tote

Though the uninitiated may see only an invitation to go shopping, HIMYM fans will recognize a nod to Robin. During her formative years in Canada, the journalist had a brief stint as a teen pop star with her hit Let's Go to the Mall, an endless source of amusement for her four friends.

The tote is available at Cafepress.com for $28.50

New TV series

Patricia Arquette CONTRIBUTED

New CSI spin-off coming in March

CSI: Cyber, headlined by Patricia Arquette, will arrive on CBS on March 4, the network announced. The third spinoff on the hit crime series CSI will focus on investigations at the FBI's cybercrime division. Arquette and James Van Der Beek co-star, and Luke Perry features in the first episodes in a potentially recurring role. AFP

Superman's grandfather gets his own series

Syfy is developing Krypton, a series about the home planet of the famous DC superhero. The project that first surfaced last October in a report from Bleedingcool.com, is indeed underway, Syfy has confirmed. The network also validated the earlier report that Man of Steel screenwriter David S. Goyer is involved as an executive producer. As indicated by its name, the series is set on Superman's home planet, where he was born as Kal-El. The protagonist is Superman's grandfather, who attempts to restore the honour of the House of El and to bring hope and equality to Krypton. AFP

Holiday classic a misfit from the start

Rudolph. Created on a tight budget in 1964, the stop-motion animated special has suffered from a lack of respect for 50 years

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer airs Dec. 14 and 22 at 7 p.m. on CBC and Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. on YTV. CONTRIBUTED

"You'll go down in history," wrote Johnny Marks about Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

It's been 75 years since the composer's song became an instant hit, and 50 years since NBC first aired one of the most beloved Christmas specials of all time.

The hour-long special returns Dec. 14 and 22 at 7 p.m. on CBC, and Dec. 20 on YTV as part of its month-long Merry 6-mas package of nightly holiday specials airing at 6 p.m. ET.

The history of the Rankin-Bass stop-motion animated special has had its ups and downs. It reads more like a mystery novel than a holiday classic.

Take the Canadians who supplied the voices of the show's main characters. Paul Soles spoke for Hermey the Elf, the North Pole helper with the kiss-curl who really wanted to be a dentist. Soles, now 84, puts his involvement in the special down to "blind luck."

The Toronto native who has gone on to a long acting career was already established with a troupe of CBC Radio performers by 1964. His cousin was Bernard (Bunny) Cowan, who, among other things, had been the announcer on Front Page Challenge. Cowan had assembled a voice cast for two previous animated shows produced by Jules Bass and Arthur Rankin Jr. — The New Adventures of Pinocchio and Tales of The Wizard of Oz.

Those shows, according to Rick Goldschmidt, author of The Enchanted World of Rankin-Bass, had been done on the cheap. The New York-based producers were down to taking loans from friends to bankroll their series, and chose Toronto's Crawley Films to crank out 130 short episodes of Wizard. Using Canadian voice actors was a cost-cutting move.

"We were good, but we also worked cheap," says Soles. "This business of residuals was new to our union, which was not quite as strong as SAG or others in the States."

The fate of the voice stars, however, is better than what happened to the puppets. Rudolph, like Pinocchio, was animated in Japan. The bendable puppets, designed in America by Antony Peters, were photographed a few frames at a time to create the animation.

To promote the special, a full cast set of puppets was shipped from Japan to America and, according to Goldschmidt, put on display at Christmastime at NBC Studios in Manhattan.

Rankin and others placed little value in the puppets, so they were never stored properly. Some were even pitched as the company moved throughout the years.

Rankin's secretary took a cast set home one Christmas and gave them to nieces and nephews, who played with them under the tree. After Christmas, the puppets were stored in an attic. The heat was too much for the Abominable Snow Monster and others. Several puppets melted together and had to be trashed.

Two survived: Santa and Rudolph. Cleaned up and put on eBay, they fetched $10,000.

Goldschmidt put the new owner in touch with Screen Novelties, which fully restored the dolls. Rudolph's original nose was missing and had been clumsily replaced with a wad of red clay. Santa was missing half his moustache and the white pompom off his hat. Today, they are valued at about $200,000 — more than double the original budget for the entire special.

Finally, there's the fate of the special itself. Rudolph, says Goldschmidt, has been "taking it on the nose" for years by CBS. Although the network is making a big deal out of the 50th anniversary, the version it airs is a mess, he says. His pleas to the current owners at Dreamworks to restore Rudolph have fallen on deaf ears.

The original version wasn't perfect, he admits. He likes the seldom-seen original end credits, but the names of both Billie Mae Richards and Antony Peters were misspelled.

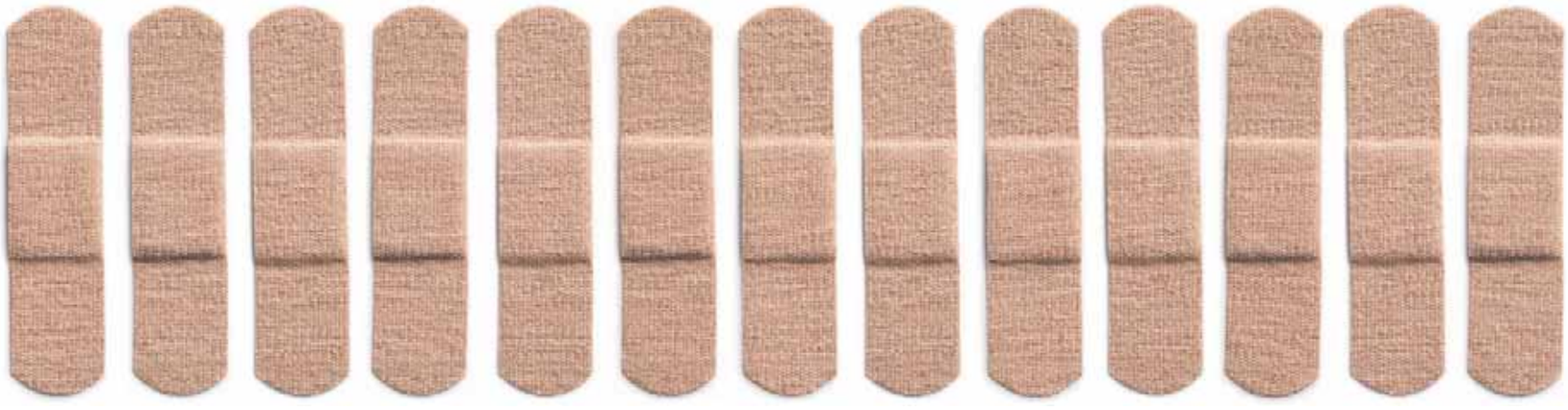
Soles suggests Rudolph's imperfections may ultimately be part of its lasting appeal. After all, he asks, aren't we all from the Island of Misfit Toys?

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian connection

Canadians supplied the voices for the 1964 special. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 1964 show features the voices of Canadian actors Paul Soles (as Hermey the Elf), Billie Mae Richards (Rudolph), Stan Francis (Santa), Larry Mann (Yukon Cornelius), Carl Banas (elf foreman), Janis Orenstein, Paul Kligman, Peg Dixon, Corrie Conley and Alfie Scopp.
But because the idea of residuals was still new to their union, the actors never saw a nickel from the special after the second repeat in 1966 — despite the fact Rudolph has never fallen off the annual Christmas TV schedule. Burl Ives, on the other hand — brought in at the last minute to appease NBC and sponsor General Electric — had a much better deal. The American singer and his estate, continue to cash Rudolph cheques each year.



You've a good voice, Sally Dryer

Christmas. Five decades later, the voice of Charlie Brown's best female friend recalls her childhood experience with the iconic franchise

A Charlie Brown Christmas returns Dec. 16 on ABC and Dec. 23 on YTV. CONTRIBUTED

A Charlie Brown Christmas has spoken to the child in all of us for five decades. Imagine what it would have been like to have been a child involved in the making of this special.

One such lucky girl was Sally Dryer. At eight years of age, Dryer was among the children cast to voice several of the beloved Peanuts comic strip characters.

"I was just at the right place at the right time," says Dryer, now 58 and living in Arizona, N.M.

She was cast as the voice of Violet in A Charlie Brown Christmas, but starting with the next special, It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown and through a few more in the '60s, she voiced Charlie Brown's football-yanking nemesis, Lucy Van Pelt.

Then her voice changed, and as Dryer says, "I was a has-been at 11!"

Cartoonist Charles Schulz, who died in 2000 at 77, was very protective of his creation. For 50 years, he drew every panel of every comic strip.

In 1965, when producer Lee Mendelson finally wore him down about doing an animated TV special, Schulz agreed only if certain conditions were met. One was that actual children — and not the adult voice actors usually hired on animated programming — be used to give voice to Charlie Brown, Linus, Lucy, Schroeder and the rest of the Peanuts gang.

Mendelson spread the word among his staff that he was looking for kids who might fit the parts. Dryer got an audition because her big sister happened to be Mendelson's babysitter and — at the time of the casting call — a production assistant at his company.

Nobody had any idea that the special would still be charming TV audiences 50 years later — least of all the young actors.

Dryer remembers the experience as "a day off school, a hamburger and a recording in San Francisco." One or two of the kids weren't old enough to read that well, and director Bill Melendez would feed them the dialogue line by line. Kathy Steinberg, who did the voice of Charlie Brown's little sister Sally, relied so much on Melendez's coaching she started mimicking his Latino accent.

Dryer remembers this was still a problem on the Great Pumpkin special. "He would say, 'tricks or treats' instead of 'trick or treat.' I still get questions about that — 'Why do you say, 'tricks or treats?" and I say, 'Because that's what we were told to say.'"

Dryer remembers playing with Peter Robbins (Charlie Brown), Chris Shea (Linus) and the other kids while waiting their turn at the mic.

"It was like playing hooky for a day," says Dryer. "We were a group of wild children, playing on the elevators and running up and down stairs and they'd take us one by one into the soundproof room and work with us, while the other kids crazily ran around and played." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Modern but still magical

The Schulz family is thrilled new generations continue to relate to Charlie Brown and Snoopy.

- A new CGI-animated Peanuts movie, approved by the family, will premiere in 2015. "You see so many other products that come and go and they're major hits and they have their Christmas specials and then they're gone," says Jill Schulz, Charles' daughter.
- The reason A Charlie Brown Christmas endures, she thinks, is because these characters seem so human. There's a sense that what happens to the Peanuts gang "happens to all of us."

Simpsons. D'oh come all ye fans and behold these gifts

After a quarter century on the air, Homer, Marge, Bart and Lisa need no introduction, and the world has seen plenty of The Simpsons merchandise since 1989. As the comedy celebrates its 25th anniversary, there is a particularly abundant selection of gifts for fans this holiday season. AFP

Season 17 DVD boxed set

Bart's nemesis Sideshow Bob graces the cover of this boxed set. First aired in 2005 and 2006, the 17th season includes 22 episodes on the famous yellow family. Among the special features are previously unreleased scenes, bonus episodes and audio commentary. The boxed set has a list price of $49.98 on DVD and $59.99 on Blu-ray.

The Simpsons' House Lego Construction Set

For its 25th anniversary, the show teamed with Lego to replicate the Simpsons' house down to the last detail, including the family's brown couch and pink car. The removable roof invites kids and grown-ups to peek inside. Priced at $199.99 and available at the Lego website, the construction set comes with mini-figures of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, Maggie and Ned Flanders. These mini-figures are also available separately as part of a collection of 16 of Springfield's most beloved residents ($3.99 each).

Mr. Potato Head Homer Simpson Figure

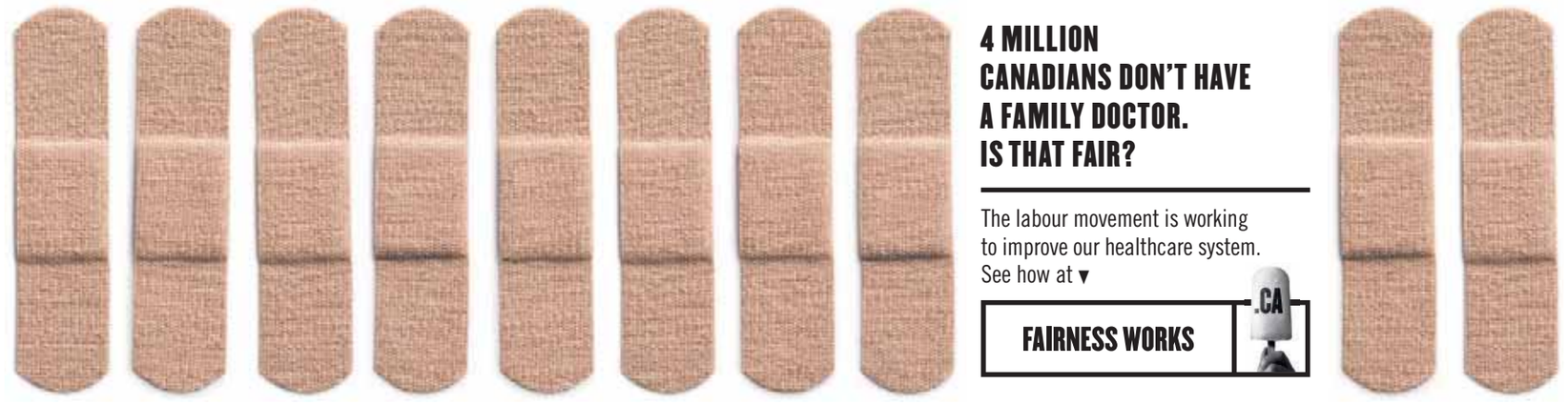
The show's humour may not be appropriate for all ages, but kids aged two and up can still appreciate Homer through this special edition Mr. Potato Head. The six-inch figure comes with mix-and-match components, including a doughnut with sprinkles. Available for $19.99 on Amazon.

Eleven Paris X The Simpsons T-shirts

Known for its irreverent "moustache" T-shirts featuring celebrities, the French clothing brand has launched a new collection honouring Matt Groening's beloved characters. Bart, Homer, Chief Wiggum, Krusty the Clown and other residents of Springfield are featured on these original T-shirts, priced at approximately $70 each at Asos.com.

NECA 25 Greatest Celebrity Guest Stars Figures

For diehard fans, the release of new figures from the National Entertainment Collectibles Association is always an event. Over the course of 2014, NECA has released 25 figures of the most memorable celebrity guest stars seen over the show's 25-year history. Collectors can now place yellow versions of Weird Al, Yao Ming, Tom Hanks and Britney Spears on their shelves next to the residents of Springfield. The figures are available for $15 to $20 each.



Rom-com Dirty Singles celebrates Toronto

Streaming. Director Alex Pugsley gave his hometown as much of a starring role inhis debut film as the ensemble cast

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Actors Alex Paxton-Bessley and Paul Campbell in Alex Pugsley's romantic comedy Dirty Singles. CONTRIBUTED

Alex Pugsley almost tried to cast Rachel McAdams in his very first movie — except the young director changed his mind.

"I have a friend that's a yoga instructor of Rachel McAdams and I thought, should I pretend to be a yoga student and pass her the script?" laughed the filmmaker while discussing his new drama Dirty Singles.

"Then I thought it might be weird — not only because it's weird to approach her at a yoga class, but if there's one movie star and everyone else is sort of unknown, it might make the feng shui of the movie wonky."

Wise move. Instead, Dirty Singles is a well-balanced movie that's reminiscent of such multi-layered rom-coms as Love Actually and Crazy Stupid Love. In the ensemble relationship drama (available Dec. 15 on iTunes and VOD), a group of late-20-something couples struggle with their collective friendship after one pair's partnership falls apart.

"The cast is one of the strongest features of the movie," said Pugsley of an ensemble he whittled down from about 250 auditions. "When you're making a romantic comedy, you want the actors to feel like they're really a couple because the audience will figure it out. The audience will sense immediately if people have chemistry and they would actually be married to each other."

As convincing as Pugsley intended his actors' performances to be, the TV writer-turned-director also insisted on making Toronto part of the movie — if not for the sake of simplicity (he shot it all within a 200-metre radius of one neighbourhood, after all), then for the love of his hometown.

"Toronto is used so often as a stand-in for New York or London," said Pugsley. "I thought let's see the CN Tower or the Gardiner Expressway or streetcars. I think Toronto's amazing, so let's celebrate it — I wish more things did."

Dirty Singles by the numbers

Alex Pugsley admits his debut feature was "a big logistical challenge." Here's a look at Dirty Singles by the numbers:

21
Speaking parts in the film.

250
Auditions for the movie.

14
Days to shoot the movie.

30
Filming locations within a 200-metre radius.

9
Hours of daylight in December, when he filmed the movie.

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NO LINE NO COVER
#DJSkateNights
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Natrel RINK
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
8–11PM
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More to Miami than South Beach

Travel time. Known as a seaside playground, with ultra-chic hot-spots and sizzling beaches

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

Miami is still synonymous with fun and sun. While there's plenty of that, the city also boasts much more. GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Downtown Miami: It's probably the only place in the U.S. where a man can get away with wearing a white blazer. GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Miami Temptations

- The Miami Temptations program showcases a unique Miami experience each month, offering discounts and deals for visitors. In August, for example, Miami Spice offers deals on three-course meals by world-renowned chefs, showcasing the best of Miami cuisine.

While Miami is still synonymous with "fun and sun," it's also evolved into a more cosmopolitan destination over the past five years, with an emphasis on art and culture.

"We've always had the excitement of South Beach and the waterfront cafés, but downtown Miami has become another great destination," said Rolando Aedo, CMO and EVP with the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau.

A few years ago, that was unheard of; the downtown core would empty out after the workday. Now it's enjoying a renaissance, where you'll see residents with baby strollers walking their dogs alongside some of the city's best new restaurants, shops and museums. Downtown Miami's Museum Park, for example, houses the new Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), designed by Herzog & de Meuron (the same architects that designed Beijing's Bird's Nest Stadium).

Just north of the downtown core is the Wynwood Arts District, the epicentre of Miami's creative community. Neglected warehouses and shuttered factories have been transformed into art galleries, performing arts spaces, antique shops and eclectic bars, and the area features one of the largest open-air street art installations in the world.

"Practically every building has a mural by a street artist," said Aedo. "They're being commissioned by (building owners) to wrap buildings in amazing street art."

These neighbourhoods — as well as Miami's heritage neighbourhoods, such as Little Havana and Little Haiti — have become destinations unto themselves, he said.

In Little Havana, visitors can stroll the sidewalks, have a shot of high-octane Cuban coffee and watch grumpy old men playing dominos. "It's a truly authentic, organic experience," said Aedo. And Little Haiti — which offers art galleries, ethnic food and indie music — is a burgeoning centre for small independent businesses.

The city has also been investing in infrastructure that makes it easier for visitors to get around. It spent $8 billion to modernize its airport, which offers direct rail access to downtown Miami in 15 minutes, with free trolley and metro transit around the city.

Miami currently has about 45,000 hotel rooms and is adding an additional 8,000 rooms over the next five years. The Thompson Miami Beach — where art deco meets modern Miami — recently opened its doors, and Hong Kong's EAST brand is set to open its first U.S. property in Miami's downtown financial district in 2015.

But a visit to Miami would be remiss without taking in its iconic, art-deco hotels along South Beach. Back in the '80s, these buildings sat empty and dilapidated. "We can trace our success (in the tourism industry) to the saving and restoration of those art-deco hotels," said Aedo.

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How-to

Stay sane during the holiday travel season

1. Early morning and late evening flights are the least busy.
2. Pay the extra money to fly non-stop. Connection delays are not worth the hassle.
3. Travelling with gifts? Shop small, so everything fits nicely in your suitcase — unwrapped, of course, for security reasons.
4. Check in as early as you can online (usually 24 hours) and get your seat assignments then.
5. Make sure there's an actual paperback book in your carry-on, in case delays last longer than your tablet charge.
6. Problems? Calling the airline from the gate lounge can net you faster service than standing in line at the counter. **DOUG WALLACE**

New

Hong Kong insider guide

Hong Kong joins the growing list of cities scoped out for the trendy Hunt series of pocket-sized guide books (Gatehouse Publishing). The focus is mostly on eating, shopping and insider info on cool places to hang out off the beaten path. Hong Kong is broken down by neighbourhood, examining everything from rooftop bars to bespoke shoe stores to dim sum and more. A 48-Hour section gives you a weekend version of the city. $12, Amazon.ca. **TEXT: DOUG WALLACE**

Planning

Have a healthy trip overseas

"Travel safely!" is the new "Bon voyage!" And visits to some foreign countries may warrant a stop at your local travel vaccine clinic first, so you can determine whether or not any shots are required before you go. Preventable illnesses are just that — preventable, from diarrhea to yellow fever and cholera. Consult your doctor, and visit the travel health and safety section at travel.gc.ca.
TEXT: DOUG WALLACE, PHOTO: ISTOCK

Around the world in eight Christmas trees

'Tis the season to pull out the Christmas lights, but if you're in need of inspiration as to how to decorate your tree look no further than the world's major cities, which have been busy trying to outdo one another with their festive displays for 2014. Brazil is a nation that knows how to put on a show and Christmas is the perfect excuse. Billed as the "largest floating Christmas tree in the world," its stunning festive creation (pictured here) on the Rodrigo de Freitas lake in Rio de Janeiro oozes holiday spirit.

Meanwhile, the Shiodome shopping centre in Tokyo has outdone itself this year with the Canyon d'Azur, a stunning blue multi-tree creation fabricated from thousands of LED bulbs.

Luxury department store Galeries Lafayette in Paris has taken a unique approach and turned the festive season on its head with its gorgeous upside-down tree, while things are more traditional in Washington DC, where Capitol Hill was lit up this week with the unveiling of a 27-metre-high glittering fir.

The relatively mild Spanish weather hasn't stopped Madrid from getting into the Christmas spirit with a lovely light show on the city's Gran Via, while Berlin sets its annual towering Christmas tree at the famous Brandenburg Gate.

London has gotten all nostalgic for childhood, with the city's Legoland theme park unveiling an eight-metre-high Lego tree made from 300,000 toy bricks.

And in Honduras, the biggest human Christmas tree in the world was created on Dec. 1 by a total of 2,945 people, setting a new Guinness World Record and beating former reigning champion, Thailand.

TEXT AND PHOTO: AFP

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Snow much more than skiing

Winter wonderlands. Alpine sports are the big draw at many of these resorts, but they also do a good job of entertaining the chalet dwellers

While skiers are hitting the slopes, non-skiers can soak in the mineral pool at The Fairmont Banff Springs. AFP FILE

It may seem that skiers hold a monopoly over winter. But luxury ski resorts are increasingly recognizing that winter doesn't only belong to snow bunnies by launching innovative new activities — think snow paragliding and igloo building — for their non-skiing guests.

For couples who have a hard time reconciling one person's ski needs and the other person's aversion to frozen toes and broken limbs, online booking site Trivago has curated a list of some of the most luxurious hotels that double as wintry fairylands.

The Omni Homestead, Hot Springs, Va.

While your partner heads out to carve snow, take a soak in the outdoor, adult-only hot springs at The Omni Homestead tucked into the Allegheny Mountains. The property, which has hosted 22 U.S. presidents, sits on the largest private hot springs in Virginia. Once you're sufficiently warm and toasty, head over to the on-site movie theatre. Other activities include ice skating, snow tubing, and snowmobile tours.

Les Airelles, Courchevel, France

Famed for its world-class skiing, the village of Courchevel 1850 is part of Les Trois Vallées, the largest ski area in the world. At Hotel de Charme Les Airelles, adventure seekers can explore the area by horse, snowmobile, snowshoe, or even helicopter. Gastronomes can look forward to Michelin-grade fare at Pierre Gagnaire for Les Airelles.

The Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alta.

It's called Canada's 'Castle in the Rockies,' for good reason. Guests have a slew of winter sports activities to choose from at the stunning, 19th-century property, including canyon ice walking, dog sledding, ice fishing, and the very Canadian sport of curling. Thaw out at Banff's hot springs or at the hotel's mineral pool.

The Cambrian, Adelboden, Switzerland

This one's for the design hound who values the importance of esthetics. Contemporary and minimal in design with cowhide accents and luxury furnishings from B&B Italia, Porada and Knoll International, all rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, DVD player and Wi-Fi. Non-ski activities include snow tubing, winter hiking, igloo building, ice climbing, night sledding, and even snow paragliding.

Four Seasons, Whistler B.C.

As the largest ski resort in North America, the Four Seasons Whistler has earned itself a solid reputation among ski bunnies. But aside from skiing and snowboarding, the luxury resort offers another activity that's not exactly synonymous with winter: golf. On the 18th green, putters will be met with a PGA pro, board a private helicopter to fly 8,000 feet (2,438 metres), and undertake a glacier tee-off from the 19th hole. With tips from your personal PGA golf coach, participants get set to make their longest drive and slam their biodegradable golf ball into the abyss of the wintry Canadian mountain range.

The St. Regis Aspen Resort boasts the best spa in the world, as named by Travel + Leisure magazine. AFP FILE

Les Airelles in Courcheval, France has a Michelin starred restaurant at Pierre Gagnaire for Les Airelles. AFP FILE

St. Regis Aspen Resort, Aspen, Colo.

One of St. Regis's biggest non-ski assets is its Remede Spa, which holds the distinction of being named best spa in the world by Travel + Leisure magazine. After a tiring day on the slopes or snowshoes, guests can try out their innovative new treatment, the Farm-to-Massage-Table, an interesting twist on the gastronomic farm-to-table trend. The concept uses locally sourced and natural ingredients in its treatment.

Cristallo Spa & Golf, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

About two hours from Venice, in the Dolomites mountain range, sits the Cristallo Spa and Golf, a luxury resort that's also renowned for its world-class spa that includes everything from anti-jet lag facial treatments and Lomi Lomi massage, characterized by slow, winding movements that evoke the rippling of waves for long-lasting relaxation. The hotel is near the Olympic bobsleigh track for non-skiing thrill-seekers.

Montage Deer Valley, Park City, Utah

Montage Deer Valley only opened in 2010 but has already amassed a string of accolades from travel publications like Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure in categories like best hotel, spa and resort. This winter season, activities include cross-country ski, snowshoeing, tubing, ice-skating, snowmobiling, dog sledding, fly fishing and train rides. Guests can also visit nearby Utah Olympic Park to watch top athletes train in Nordic jumping, bobsled, luge and skeleton. AFP

Beaujolais wine region is one of France's best-kept secrets

Foodie furlough.
Little known to tourists, this spot near Burgundy boasts affordable bottles and delicious dishes

ANDRE PROULX
life@metronews.ca

It's hard to imagine in a country known for wine that there are still areas that have not been invaded by the wine-loving tourist. Nestled between Burgundy and Côtes du Rhône, you find Beaujolais. Beaujolais is a wine region recovering from a bad reputation due to bad Beaujolais Nouveau flooding the market in the late '80s and early '90s. I can assure you that there is much more to Beaujolais than the release of the Nouveau.

The celebration that takes place on the third Thursday in November to celebrate the release of Beaujolais Nouveau is one reason to plan a visit to the group of villages that make up the Beaujolais region. Going in the fall just after harvest means you will have far fewer tourists in the area and booking appointments at wineries will be easier. Going toward the end of November means that most of the hard work from harvest is finished and winemakers will have some more time to sit down with you and share their wines.

Beaujolais offers two types of wine — red Beaujolais and Beaujolais Blanc. ANDRE PROULX

There are two types of wine you will find in Beaujolais: the traditional familiar red Beaujolais and Beaujolais Blanc. The red is made with the Gamay Noir grape. Gamay is fantastic because it is versatile with all kinds of food.

Beaujolais Blanc is made from Chardonnay. It makes up a very small part of the total production of wines in the region but it seems that every winery has one section of the vineyard reserved for their Chardonnay. Tasting Beaujolais Blanc will make you feel like you are part of a secret club because it isn't well known outside of Beaujolais — even to other people in France.

Only 54 kilometres away, Lyon is the gastronomy capital of France.

Home to several Michelin-star restaurants and a perfect marriage of old and modern architecture, you may want to consider staying in the city for a day or two. While you are in the city, make sure you check out a Bouchon Lyonnais where you can expect to find traditional dishes such as Quenelle (fish dumpling) and sausages served with a French flair. The Michelin stars don't stop at the city limits with Beaujolais being home to several Michelin star restaurants of their own. Expect to enjoy long lunches and suppers on your visit to the area.

If you go...

- You are entitled to 1.5L of wine duty-free. Anything over that, expect to pay duty depending on which Canadian province you are entering from France.
- When visiting wineries make sure you call in advance, most wineries work on an appointment basis only.
- When renting a car expect to get a larger class than you would be used to in Canada. When they say compact, they really mean subcompact.

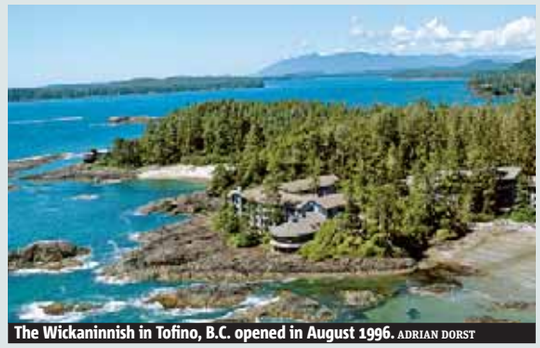
Award

Behind Canada's best inn

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Readers of the world's best-known travel publications, Condé Nast Traveler, Condé Nast Traveller international edition and Travel + Leisure Magazine gave top honours in 2014 to the Wickaninnish Inn in Tofino, B.C. as the Top Resort in Canada. I spoke with the Inn's managing director Charles McDiarmid about these accolades.

The Wickaninnish has been in Tofino a long time?
We opened in August 1996. The original Wickaninnish Inn was actually built in 1964, but the only connection to the current inn is the name. My father was inspired by how the inn was synonymous with the area, so when its doors closed in 1979 he bought the registration for the corporate name. Years later after going to Cornell hotel school and working with Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts, I wrote the business plan for the new inn.


The Wickaninnish in Tofino, B.C. opened in August 1996. ADRIAN DORST

What sets you apart?
Our service, delivered in a relaxed friendly way. I don't ask the staff to do or care about anything more than I do myself and we all do whatever it takes to make a guest's stay.

The sense of arrival. All you see as you drive down the road are the tall trees and a sign for the inn. You don't see ocean — just trees. Then you open the front doors of the inn and from the At the Pointe building, you are looking out on the Pacific Ocean or from the On the Beach building, you are looking down the full length of Chesterman Beach. We are right on the west coast of Canada; on the edge of the largest ocean on the planet.

And of course the destination itself is amazing. Giant spruce trees, crashing ocean, fresh air, seagulls crying overhead and two kilometres of hard-packed sand to walk on. For a true Tofino experience you need to get out on the water; surf, go whale watching, take a trip to Hot Springs Cove, go salmon fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking or scuba diving.

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METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

Legal Matters

Snowmobile accidents and personal injury law

David R. Tenszen, PIA Law

Q Are snowmobile accidents a serious problem in Ontario?

A OPP statistics reveal that in the last four Ontario winters, more than 70 people were killed in snowmobile accidents. Each year, hundreds more sustain serious and permanent injuries riding snowmobiles.

Q If someone is seriously injured or killed in a snowmobile accident, what rights do they and their family have?

A A snowmobile is required to be insured under the same type of insurance policy as a car or truck in Ontario. Therefore, when someone is seriously injured or killed in a snowmobile accident, they and their family can claim no-fault accident benefits from their own snowmobile insurer regardless of who is at fault. These benefits provide for income replacement, medical treatment, rehabilitation services, attendant care and other benefits. In addition, injured people and their families can sue those who cause or contribute to their accident.

Q If someone is seriously injured in a snowmobile accident, should they consult with a lawyer?

A The legal process for resolving snowmobile accident cases is very complex. There are short time limits, complicated forms, and medical reports and records that must be prepared and submitted. It is vitally important to hire a lawyer with the right experience and qualifications. Make sure you check the lawyer's credentials before deciding which lawyer to hire. The lawyers of PIA Law have the right credentials and a track record of successfully resolving complex personal injury cases, including snowmobile accident cases.

For more, visit pialaw.ca/snowmobile-accidents.

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Manage your work goals during the hectic holidays

Career. 'Tis the season for stressful, stacked-up schedules. Here's how to figure it all out while still feeling festive

CELINE TARRANT
TalentEgg.ca

It's better to do the important things very well than try to take on everything at once. It will speak volumes about you as a professional if you can effectively prioritize. ISTOCK

On the heels of Halloween and Thanksgiving, December brings with it the busiest time of year for most people.

Along with an already hectic work schedule, you now have holiday parties, a never-ending list of gifts to buy, holiday traffic to beat and travel plans — and you still have to deliver on every deadline.

It's easy to let work get sidelined and pushed off until things calm down. Good time management is critical to make sure you can follow through on all your commitments, while still enjoying the holidays.

Here's how you can effectively manage your professional goals during the busy holiday season, and set yourself up for success in the New Year.

Make a list, and check it twice

If there was ever a time to truly embrace the to-do list, this is definitely it. Whether you use your Outlook calendar, an app, or pen and paper, commit to writing down every single obligation.

In addition to meetings and project deadlines, block out short chunks of uninterrupted work time where you don't check email or answer calls (when possible). Distraction-free work time does not exist during this busy time of year — unless you make it for yourself.

Include things that you might not usually put on your to-do list like shopping, parties, gym time, holiday baking, meal-prep, travel plans, and even when you plan to wake up and go to bed.

Scheduling every detail of your life may seem cumbersome, but seeing how you plan to spend all your time is an extremely powerful tool, and will help you figure out how you can fit everything in. Or maybe it will reveal where you are needlessly wasting precious time each day.

For the love of lists

Scheduling every detail of your life may seem cumbersome, but seeing how you plan to spend all your time is an extremely powerful tool, and will help you figure out how you can fit everything in.

As you complete each task, indulge in the satisfaction of crossing it off your list. These are small wins to be savoured every day.

Prioritize, prioritize, prioritize

After making such a detailed to-do list, it's tempting to try to power through it as fast as possible and get everything done, but this often results in burnout or a series of half-done jobs that need to be re-worked in the New Year.

Be honest with yourself about what items are critical and which are not.

Get what you need from others

Business continuity is often a challenge during the holidays, with people on vacation or out sick.

You're more likely to get an out-of-office email than an actual response, so it can seem impossible to move projects forward or get any real work done.

The last thing you want is to miss an important deadline because you forgot to collect a key piece of work from someone who just went on vacation.

Make sure you know what deliverables you need to progress your work, and follow up with people. Keep track of your team's and boss' vacation time so you schedule important meetings before they leave, and establish a contingency plan if something goes wrong.

Extend the same courtesy to others. Your boss may have approved your vacation, but gently reminding them is always a good idea so they aren't blindsided when you don't show up for two weeks.

Don't put professional development on the back burner

Remember that stack of white-papers you've been meaning to read? Or that industry holiday party that you still haven't RSVP'd to attend?

Despite competing demands for your time during the holidays, professional development should always be a priority for those who want to stay at the top of their game in today's job market.

Take advantage of your morning commute, long drives to visit out-of-town family, and vacation-bound flights to catch up on your industry reading, webinars, and to wish the people in your network happy holidays.

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These aren't mom's breakfast pancakes

This recipe makes 32 blinis. EMILY RICHARDS

Smoked Salmon Served on Buckwheat Blinis. Impress guests with an appetizer that offers various textures

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Entertaining this holiday season will be super easy if you have a few great recipes to keep on hand — like these Blinis.

When planning a get-together make sure that you are not alone in preparing some fun food. Switch things up by making the dishes with your friends and enjoying the company.

Digging into tasty morsels with a great glass of wine, cocktail or bubbly will be even more enjoyable if you've bonded over making them.

These tender little pancakes are topped with lemon cream cheese and smoked salmon. They are a perfect nibble for a night in with friends.

1. In a bowl, dissolve yeast in water and stir in 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) of the buttermilk; let stand for 10 minutes or until frothy.

2. In another bowl, combine both flours and salt. Sift flour mixture into the buttermilk mixture and stir until well combined. Stir in remaining buttermilk.

3. Whisk egg yolks into the batter. Cover and set aside in a warm place to rise for about 1 hour or until batter is bubbly.

4. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks and fold into the batter. Cover and let rise for 1 hour.

5. Lightly brush nonstick skillet with some melted butter and heat over medium high. Spoon 1 tbsp (15 ml) of the batter for each blini and cook for about 1 minute, until bubbles break through. Turn blini over and brown for another 30 seconds. Remove from pan, and place on a plate so they do not get soggy; repeat with remaining batter.

6. In a small bowl, combine cream cheese, lemon rind and juice. Spread some of the cream cheese mixture onto the blinis. Roll sliced salmon around your finger to create a rosette and place on blini. Sprinkle with green onions to serve if desired.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) traditional active dry yeast
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) lukewarm water
- 1 3/4 cup (425 mL) lukewarm buttermilk
- 1 cup (250 ml) all purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) buckwheat flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter, melted
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) lemon juice
- 1 lb (500 g) thinly sliced smoked salmon
- Chopped green onions (optional)

Food around the world

Vietnam (vegan rating: 7/10)

Meat, a contented carnivorous writer, documents his and his vegan fiancée Veg's dietary journey as they travel and munch their way across four continents.

MEAT AND VEG
meatandvegontheroad.tumblr.com
Photos: Suzi Staheli
Words: Eoin Weldon

Veg: Veg didn't encounter many problems in Hanoi, Cat Ba Island and Quan Lan Island. A decent rice, veg and tofu dish was never hard to find. Her fave meal was at a vegan restaurant in Hanoi. It came in six separate portions: A bean-based chicken substitute, tofu in a spicy sauce, shredded mango salad, fried morning glory, rice with coconut shavings and a veggie broth.

Meat: I became acquainted with Pho. Our hotel on the ultra-remote and beautiful Quan Lan Island served the best fare and here I enjoyed handmade shrimp spring rolls complete with tangy dip along with a refreshing and tasty Pho Bo or beef Pho, which came loaded with tender steak slivers.

Lunch. Open-faced Corn and Zucchini Omelette with Smoked Salmon

1. Heat the oven to 350 F.

2. In a colander, toss zucchini with 1/2 tsp salt and stand over sink for 10 mins.

3. In oven-safe nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium. Add onion and cook until golden, about 5 mins. Set aside.

Ingredients

- 1 lb zucchini, coarsely shredded
- 1 1/2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- 2 tbsp vegetable or canola oil
- 1 cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 2 cups fresh corn kernels
- 8 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup plain fat-free Greek yogurt
- 1 tsp each grated lemon zest/juice
- Ground black pepper
- 4 oz smoked salmon, cut into thin strips
- Chopped fresh dill, to garnish

4. Using hands, squeeze small handfuls of zucchini to discard as much water as possible. Add squeezed zucchini to skillet with onion. Return skillet to heat and cook, stirring, 2 mins.

5. Stir in corn, eggs and remaining tsp salt. Cook, lifting up edges of omelette to let uncooked egg mix flow under, until omelette is mostly set. Transfer to oven; bake 5 mins.

6. Meanwhile, in bowl combine yogurt, lemon zest and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper. To serve, cut omelette into wedges and top each portion with quarter of salmon and lemon cream, sprinkling of dill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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10 reasons to give

Easy and accurate, you can't go wrong with cards

With just a few weeks left before Christmas, it's time to get serious about finishing your gift shopping. Have you considered getting friends or family members a gift card? While some people think they're a bit of a cop out, here are 10 reasons why Santa probably wraps up gift cards, too.

1. EASY TO BUY. If you don't enjoy shopping, buying a gift card online or from a store is simple and straightforward.

2. TIME IS RUNNING OUT. Gift cards are faster to buy than traditional gifts, according to a recent National Retail Council survey. According to Ottawa University student Kieran McKinnon: "In the super-stressful holiday season sometimes it becomes necessary to go for an approximation of what someone might like, rather than the actual thing."

3. ALL ABOUT THE RECIPIENT. Gift cards put the selection of gifts completely into the hands of the recipient. Says McKinnon: "Receiving a gift card gives someone the chance to choose exactly what they would like for Christmas." According to the NRC survey, more than half of us buy gift cards for this reason.

THE 3 GIFT CARDS

- **Anywhere card:** A gift card from Visa or MasterCard, for example, can be used wherever that credit card is accepted.
- **Somewhat limited:** This card can be used at a limited number of merchants —a mall gift card is a good example.
- **One shop:** The card can be used at the one store but at any location.

4. A PERFECT SOLUTION. If you know someone who has everything, a gift card is perfect.

5. A SPECIAL GIFT. The person who receives a gift card has to buy something — and maybe something really special. Says Centennial College student Kelly-Celina Batris: "I like getting a gift card because it lets me buy things for myself that I might not have otherwise."

SHUTTERSTOCK

6. GOOD ON YOU. Provided you think about which card to give and it's appropriate, giving a gift card shows you put some effort into the gift.

7. PORTABILITY. A gift card is easy to send to friends or family who live a long ways away.

8. NO RESEARCH REQUIRED. Giving a gift card is a thoughtful gesture even when you don't know the recipient that well. Send one to a client or work colleague … it's a great gift.

9. MAKE NO MISTAKE. There's no risk of disappointment with a 'wrong' gift or anyone having to return anything.

10. IT WON'T GO TO WASTE. Let's say the recipient hasn't finished their shopping … a gift card an easy gifts to re-gift.

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CANADA

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Bernier stays hot vs. Flames

NHL. Maple Leafs goalie continues string of fine play in win over Calgary

Jonathan Bernier made 31 saves and James van Riemsdyk scored the winner early in the second period as Toronto defeated Calgary 4-1 Tuesday, sending the Flames to their first back-to-back regulation losses this season.

Peter Holland opened the scoring for Toronto which got empty-net goals from Phil Kessel and Mike Santorelli. The Maple Leafs wrapped up a five-game homestand at 4-1-0 before 19,122 at the Air Canada Centre.

Markus Granlund scored for the Flames, who trailed 2-0 going into the third.

Calgary outshot Toronto 33-27.

The Leafs (15-9-3) are now 6-1-1 since a pair of lopsided losses to Buffalo and Nashville.

The Flames (17-10-2) were coming off a 3-2 loss to San Jose that snapped a four-game winning streak.

Toronto got a sharp outing from Bernier in his ninth straight start and 11th in 12 games. Bernier, who made 44 saves in Saturday's win over Vancouver, came into the game with a 3-1-0 career mark against Calgary with a 1.75 goals-against average and .944 save percentage.

A goal-saving stop by Bernier on Johnny Gaudreau in close midway through the first period turned into a goal at the other end when, on the ensuing rush, Joffrey Lupul beat a defender down the boards and sent the puck over to the net. David Clarkson's rebound went to Holland, who stuffed it in at 10:46 for his seventh of the season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Tuesday

Maple Leafs	Flames
4	1

Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier and Calgary Flames forward Lance Bouma watch a deflected puck cross the crease on Tuesday night at Air Canada Centre. Bernier made 32 saves in the Leafs' 4-1 win. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. Raptors relinquish lead, bow to King James in Cleveland

LeBron James drives past Raptors guard Lou Williams on Tuesday night at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. JASON MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James scored 35 points, making the tiebreaking three-pointer with 48 seconds remaining, and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied to beat the Toronto Raptors 105-101 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight victory.

James' jumper from the top of the key gave Cleveland a 102-99 lead and tied him with Mark Price for the franchise record for three-pointers at 802.

James scored 10 points in the fourth quarter as Cleveland rallied from a 10-point deficit early in the period. Dion Waiters came off the bench for 18 points and Kevin Love added 17.

Jonas Valanciunas and Terrence Ross each scored 18 for Toronto. Kyle Lowry added 16, but only scored two in the fourth quarter as he was hounded defensively by Cavaliers guard Matthew Dellavedova.

Following Lowry's missed shot that hit the top of the backboard, James added a free throw with 14.2 seconds remaining for a four-point lead. Ross' dunk on an offensive rebound with 4.2 seconds left made it 103-101, but Kyrie Irving's two free throws with 3.8 seconds left sealed the win.

Trailing 95-85 early in the fourth quarter, Cleveland went on a 10-2 run and tied the game on Love's three with 3:50 remaining. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Tuesday

Cavaliers	Raptors
105	101

4 SPORTS

Newton fractures back in car crash

NFL. Panthers quarterback's status for Sunday uncertain after being hospitalized

Panthers QB Cam Newton gestures after scoring a touchdown in Sunday's win over the Saints.
SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES

Panthers quarterback Cam Newton suffered fractures to his lower back in a two-car crash Tuesday and will spend the night in the hospital, a team spokesman said Tuesday.

Newton was in fair condition, had no other internal injuries and would not need surgery, team spokesman Charlie Dayton said during a news conference outside a Charlotte hospital. It was unclear if Newton would be able to practise or play Sunday against the Buccaneers, Dayton said.

"Right now we have thought about Cam's well-being and we understand there was someone else in the other car who was injured," Dayton said. "We just hope that they're all OK."

He was expected to be released from the hospital on Wednesday after undergoing tests.

Television footage showed Newton on a stretcher being placed in an ambulance after the crash. Photos from The Charlotte Observer showed the 25-year-old smiling as an officer attended to him on the ground.

A black pickup truck that Charlotte-Mecklenburg police spokesman Robert Tufano said Newton was driving was overturned on the roadway with debris scattered all over the street. The roof was caved in and a tow truck later was hauling it away. Another car that appeared to be involved in the crash had front end damage.

Police were investigating how the crash happened on a bridge that crosses busy I-277 in the shadow of Bank of America Stadium, where the Panthers play. Dayton said he believes Newton was on his way to the stadium but wasn't certain.

The two-time Pro Bowler has 2,800 yards passing this season with 16 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. He also has rushed for 425 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Panthers to a 4-8-1 record.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tribute moves Béliveau's widow to tears

Elise Béliveau salutes the crowd as she stands next to her husband Jean Béliveau's empty seat during a ceremony prior to the Canadiens-Canucks game on Tuesday night in Montreal. The Bell Centre crowd stood and cheered for several minutes after a tribute to the legendary Habs captain, who died last week at 83. The Canadiens beat the Canucks 3-1.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada

Rangers lend out Duclair for WJC

The New York Rangers are lending forward Anthony Duclair to the Canadian team for the upcoming world junior hockey championship.

Duclair, who has seven points in 18 games for the Rangers this season, will be joining the team at selection camp on Dec. 11. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

White Sox trade for Samardzija

The Oakland Athletics traded all-star right-hander Jeff Samardzija to the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday.

Right-hander Michael Ynoa also was dealt to Chicago. Oakland obtained right-hander Chris Bassitt, catcher Josh Phegley and infielders Rangel Ravelo and Marcus Semien.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Manziel to start first game Sunday

Browns rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel will make his first NFL start on Sunday against Cincinnati, replacing the slumping Brian Hoyer as Cleveland tries to pump life into its sagging playoff hopes.

Manziel is the Browns' 21st starting quarterback since 1999.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FC Basel eliminates Liverpool at Anfield

Champions League.
Basel advances with draw as Liverpool exits despite another one of Gerrard's masterpieces

Steven Gerrard's latest moment of inspiration failed to prevent Liverpool from dropping out of the Champions League on Tuesday, with Basel securing a 1-1 draw to advance to the knockout stage at the expense of the five-time champions.

The Swiss visitors secured the point they required at Anfield to advance alongside Group B winner Real Madrid, but only after hanging on against 10 men in the face of a late Reds onslaught instigated by their captain's 81st-minute equalizer.

metro AR Liverpool's Slovakian defender Martin Skrtel bends downs as FC Basel players celebrate after their 1-1 draw at Anfield in Liverpool, England, on Tuesday, eliminating the five-time champions Liverpool. Scan the photo with your Metro News app to see more football action around Europe on Tuesday. PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Liverpool was a goal down to Fabian Frei's 25th-minute strike and a man down after a straight red card to substitute Lazar Markovic in the 60th when Gerrard curled a free kick into the top corner from 20 metres.

"You always qualify over the six games," said Gerrard, whose team lost 1-0 in Basel in October and twice to Madrid, "and unfortunately we haven't been good enough."

Markovic came on for the second half and the winger injected urgency into Liverpool's attacking play, only to get red-carded for throwing out his right arm at Behrang Safari and appearing to brush his fingers across the defender's face.

"His fingernail barely touches the nose of the defender; he is the guy who should be looked at for his reaction," Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers said.

"It was hard, the last 10 minutes," said Basel coach Paulo Sousa, adding that qualification will go down in "the history of this special club." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man City

Aguero out for up to six weeks

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini says striker Sergio Aguero could be out for up to six weeks because of his left knee.

Aguero was hurt in the second minute of City's 1-0 win over Everton in the Premier League on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'It was really a scare'

Pele discharged from hospital

After spending time in intensive care because of a urinary tract infection, Brazilian soccer great Pele left hospital Tuesday after a two-week stay.

"Thanks to God everything is fine now. I have recovered," Pele said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2015 Subaru Legacy

- **Type.** Four-door, AWD midsize sedan
- **Engines.** 2.5-litre flat four (175 hp), 3.6-litre flat six (256)
- **Transmission.** Manual six-speed, automatic CVT
- **Price.** $25,090 base, $26,390 as tested

Market position

Competitor to mainstream sedans, but with the Subaru differentiators of AWD and horizontally opposed engine designs (a.k.a. flat or boxer). Traditionally appealed to slightly cultish customers willing to pay a premium for AWD and non-flashy looks. Subaru is now trying to make Legacy appeal to a larger customer base.

Points

- Legacy just named Best New Family Car Under $30,000 by the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada.
- Same footprint as previous model, with the same engines, but increased space and fuel economy, aided by new aerodynamic styling, electric power steering, and active front grille shutters.
- The only vehicle in its class with standard full-time AWD.

The Legacy's new interior matches anything in its class.

Safety features

- Optional EyeSight system includes adaptive cruise control, pre-collision braking and throttle control, and lane sway and departure warning.
- AWD system can apply brake pressure to assist handling on corners.
- Optional steering-responsive fog lights, and rear/side vehicle detection system.

Less quirky, more appealing

Review. Subaru Legacy is now refined, roomy and quiet, trading its former niche status for a mainstream audience

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ

Nobody in the automotive world works a niche better than Subaru. Stuff all-wheel drive and a boxer engine into any vehicle and presto! You've got yourself a Subaru, and a small but dedicated group of customers who gladly partake.

But living in a niche can wear on you. So Subaru did the only sensible thing when it came time to overhaul the Legacy sedan for 2015. It angled it more toward the sweet spot of the midsize sedan market, where huge crowds of buyers shop. The result is a great midsize sedan that looks and feels like more like the new Camry than the previous Legacy.

In fact, a Legacy 2.5i model was just named AJAC's Best New Family Car Under $30,000, a category that included the new Toyota Camry and the new Chrysler 200. Those two were the match of Legacy in pretty much every category, except safety. Some of Legacy's high safety score was achieved by the optional Eyesight package, which includes adaptive cruise control and pre-collision braking and throttle control.

Subaru was known for not sweating the interior decor and features as much as their powertrain and AWD systems, but the Legacy's new cabin matches anything in its class. The new interface with a 6.2-inch touchscreen is not too complicated, and includes knobs and buttons for major functions. The (finally) up-to-date audio system offers satellite radio, auxiliary input, steering-wheel controls, and Bluetooth for smartphones and streaming audio. Nice.

The cabin is also roomy — front and back — and offers a level of quiet not previously associated with Subaru. Liquid-filled engine mounts, an acoustic windshield, lots of sound insulation, and a more aerodynamic body shape all contribute to the increased serenity.

That body shape is a bit generic to these eyes, and not one that will stand out in a crowded parking lot. All part of that plan to blend in more, I guess.

The 175-hp engine and CVT offer up no surprises, just civilized propulsion entirely in keeping with the expectations of this mainstream segment. In combination with the new electric steering, which is precise but feels somewhat disconnected from the road, you have a laid-back but sorted-out driving experience that should appeal to easygoing drivers and their families.

The Legacy is much closer to its rivals than ever before, which is good for Subaru and lots of buyers, but maybe just a tiny bit sad for those of us who don't want diversification and quirkiness to disappear.

Compare

1 Ford Fusion SE AWD
Base price: $31,399
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2 Toyota Camry
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3 Chrysler 200
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Drivers, dreamers and speed demons

From the practical or purposeful to the playful or preposterous, here's a few creative gift idea for anyone who loves all things automotive

MIKE DOJC drive@metronews.ca

Gift guide. Lusting for a Lambo but budgeted for a bicycle? We can help

Car peeps are generally an easy group to shop for. In a pinch, plunk a few Armor All products into a basket, toss in a tool set, add a bow, and park that bad boy under the tree.

But here are some hints for those who want to go the extra mile and fine-tune their gifts to the various whims of the auto-obsessive.

Assuming you can't afford this bright orange, gull-winged Lamborghini Aventador — which would look good in anyone's driveway, but starts at $485,000 — here are some more affordable suggestions for those on your list who think four wheels are way better than two.

For the Fashion Plate: Scorpion Jacket from Drive

Ryan Gosling was on point as the mysterious icy-veined stuntman and hired wheelman of few words (and no name) in the 2011 crime drama Drive. Although it may take a couple years of acting school to pull off that level of detached brooding, AngelJackets.com can at least help you look the part. The company has recreated the quilted white satin bomber jacket Gosling rocks in the movie, complete with the giant golden scorpion emblazoned on the back ($100). Complete the look with a pair of Dents chamois deerskin driving gloves ($145) with punched knuckle holes so you can watch them turn white.

For the Diecast Diehard: Chevy Silverado grille display

A photo of a clever wall-mounted Hot Wheels display case exploded across the blogosphere this fall. A Wisconsin collector and avant-garde declutterer discovered that the grid spaces on the grill of a mid-'70s Chevy pickup were just the right size to park his favourite models.

Although you could go the DIY route and scour through the scrapyard searching for a grille in good shape, LMC Truck (lmctruck.com) can hook you up with a reproduction for $130 plus shipping.

Some later-model grills will also do the trick. For more inspiration, check out facebook.com/GrilleArt to see the work of Arkansas artist Bobby Studnar, who has been at this for more than a decade.

For the Lambo Lover: Lamborghini: 100 Years of Innovation in Half the Time

Ferruccio Lamborghini's low-slung, high-powered dream machines have left motorists weak-kneed and panting ever since the 350GT roared to life in the early 1960s. The alluring marque kept it coming with icon after icon, from Miura and Countach on through to Murcielago, Aventador and Huracan. This coffee table book ($75) chronicles the sinuous journey with more than 200 spectacular photos detailing every model the raging bull badge has produced. Complementing the eye candy is a series of thoughtful essays on how the brand's esthetic expression permeated all facets of our culture.

For the Toy Tinkerer: LEGO DeLorean Time Machine

Revisit those halcyon days when you were still young and naive enough to swallow that a futuristic-looking car that blazed to 88 mph could bend the fabric of the space-time continuum. The automotive star of the Back to the Future flicks has been shrunken into a five-inch, 401-piece Lego assembly kit ($45), all decked out with foldable wheels, gull-wing doors that open and shut, and, of course, a plutonium-powered flux capacitor. Stoking the nostalgia further, it comes with mini figures of Marty McFly and Doc.

For the F1 Fanatic: Canadian Grand Prix weekend pass

Daniel Ricciardo started sixth on the grid in this year's edition of Montreal's most pulse-pounding weekend. The Australian took the first checkered flag of his F1 career after slipping past Sergio Pérez and Nico Rosberg in the closing laps. For $633, you can watch Ricciardo defend his title next June, with a weekend pass to the optimum sightlines afforded by Grandstand 1, or opt for the $577 Pole Position Package for different vantage points during the practice and qualifying sessions, before settling back into Grandstand 1 on race day.

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SL AWD Premium model shown with Accessory Roof Rail Crossbars▲

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Top up all the fluids, not just the gas tank

Driving Force. From engine and transmission oils to anti-freeze to windshield washer, your car is filled with liquids

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Topping up the engine oil is easy, but overfilling it can be almost as harmful as having too little oil. CONTRIBUTED

Just as your body needs fluids to stay healthy, so does your car. Gasoline may seem to be the most important one, but there are some that are just as vital to the car's health, and others that can help with your safety.

"Make sure when you're getting your car prepped for winter that you've topped up your fluids," says Kevin McNamara, category business manager of automotive fluids for Canadian Tire. "Even when it's cold outside, your engine can overheat if fluids aren't moving through it."

Oil is vital to your car's health, since it lubricates the moving parts inside the engine and also helps dissipate some of the excess heat it creates. Without oil, an engine could be irreparably damaged in less than a minute.

The oil should be changed and the oil filter replaced at the intervals recommended by the auto manufacturer.

In between changes, it's a good idea to occasionally check the oil level, especially on an older car. Top it up if necessary, but don't overfill it, since too much oil can also be harmful.

Synthetic oil is a good (if initially more expensive) choice, not just because it lasts longer and needs to be changed less often, but also because its microscopic particles are more uniform and can do a better job of lubrication than conventional oil.

Engine coolant is commonly known as anti-freeze because its freezing point is well below that of plain water. It absorbs heat from the engine and then flows into the radiator, where it is cooled and sent back out to the engine in a continuous loop.

This fluid should be checked at least twice a year with a coolant tester to be sure it's still able to withstand cold temperatures. A technician can do this for you, but if you do it yourself, check it only from the coolant reservoir, never by opening the radiator cap.

You should always carry a spare jug of washer fluid and keep the reservoir filled, especially if you do a lot of highway driving, where it can be dangerous to pull over and fill it. You can go through it quickly when other vehicles splash salt up from the road, which quickly dries to an opaque crust. All washer fluid will clean away the grime, but look for all-season or winter-specific options.

"Use fluid with a temperature rating for your province," McNamara says. "If you use summer fluid, it could freeze in the reservoir and potentially damage it."

Fluid facts

- If your locks freeze, use lock de-icer; never warm water. Always keep the de-icer bottle with you, not stored in the glovebox.
- A car's "curb weight" is the weight of the vehicle plus all of its fluids, including a full tank of fuel.
- Other fluids your car may contain include transmission oil, power steering fluid, differential oil, brake fluid, and battery electrolyte.

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Ford may unveil next-gen GT in Detroit

Reports are growing that 2015 could see the resurrection of an automotive legend and Ford's return to the supercar market.

After an absence of almost a decade, Ford is planning a new GT, and according to Road and Track magazine, it could make its debut as early as January 2015 at the Detroit auto show.

The last GT, which ceased production in 2006, was a modern interpretation of the iconic GT40, with modern Ferrari-beating levels of performance to boot.

When it launched in 2004, demand far outstripped supply.

By the time Ford caught up, U.S. vehicle regulations had changed and the economy stumbled, so the car only stayed in production for two years.

The GT40, the car that inspired the GT, was built in the 1960s to challenge Ferrari's dominance at Le Mans.

In 1966, the car came first, second and third in the 24-hour race and also went on to win the race in 1967, '68 and '69.

With 2016 marking the 50th anniversary of that breakthrough, the launch of the new GT would help Ford celebrate the occasion — along with a track-focused version of the car to compete in that year's race.

As for what we could expect from the new GT, it will have to match the same Ferrari nemesis if it is to ring true to its iconic badge.

So expect a mid-engine layout with a turbocharged or supercharged V8 making things happen.

As for styling, Ford is likely to go with an evolution of the last GT rather than get revolutionary — the same approach that has made the new Mustang such a hit.

One thing that does need to be improved significantly is the car's fuel-tank capacity.

Even when driven extremely carefully, the GT could only travel 120 kilometres before it needed refuelling. **AFP**

The 2004 Ford GT leads its illustrious predecessor. A new GT model is expected to be unveiled next month at the Detroit auto show. AFP

Online. New K500 index tracks classic-car values

A new web portal, launched by classic car expert Simon Kidston, claims to be the first to offer enthusiasts, investors and classic-car owners everything they need to pick the right vehicle and track the value of their collections.

K500.com hopes to be to the classic car market what the S&P 500 is to the stock market.

The heart of the site is the K500 Index, a selection of 500 hand-picked classics that range from Ferrari 250 GTOs and McLaren F1s to more accessible but desirable fare like the original Fiat 500 and the MGB.

Users can track how any car in the Index is performing in the market and how its value has risen since 1994.

"For the first time, online and in real time, you can access precise classic-car values tracked over 20 years, together with expert ranking and insight for each model," said Kidston.

The classic-car market has exploded, driven as much by wealthy individuals looking for a safe investment as by enthusiasts and serious collectors. **AFP**

Founder Simon Kidston launched K500 at the Connaught hotel in London. AFP

Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

The future of green cars has arrived, Toyota suggests

Toyota says its first production hydrogen-powered fuel-cell vehicle represents a turning point for the automotive industry, just as the Prius hybrid did more than a decade ago. The four-door, midsize Mirai sedan "fully competes" with traditional internal combustion engines, using no gasoline and emitting only water vapour. Mirai means "future" in Japanese. The car is powered by hydrogen, refuels in about five minutes and travels up to 500 kilometres before refilling is needed. The Mirai will be available first in California starting in late 2015, with additional markets tracking the expansion of a convenient hydrogen refuelling infrastructure. Its fuel-cell stack has been dramatically reduced in size to fit under the front seats. It converts hydrogen to electricity, which is fed to a nickel-metal-hydride battery pack before being doled out to a 152-horsepower electric motor. As for fully competing with traditional cars, the Mirai starts at $57,500.

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Does the Toyota Mirai represent the turning point for hydrogen-powered vehicles?

Audi plans all-electric and hybrid R8s

Not only will Audi build an electric version of its next-generation R8 sports car, but it will also make a plug-in hybrid version. Audi technical chief Ulrich Hackenberg told Britain's Car magazine that both versions are possible, and would help the automaker comply with upcoming stricter global emissions regulations. The all-electric R8 E-tron is expected to deliver up to 400 kilometres of range on a full charge. Earlier this year Hackenberg said that the company had managed to increase the range of the electric R8 for production, eclipsing the 210-kilometre range of its prototype cars. The two alternate-fuel R8s will be available sometime after the new gas-powered R8 launches in late 2015.

The Audi R8 E-tron will have a range of up to 400 kilometres.

Shift points

- An optional power take-off device will enable Toyota's Mirai hydrogen fuel-cell sedan to serve as a mobile electric generator. It will be capable of powering an average house for up to a week in an emergency, all while emitting only water vapour as its sole emission.
- Despite selling its 4 per cent share in Tesla Motors, German automaker Daimler AG says co-operation between the two companies remains unaffected. Their working partnership to date has resulted in the B-Class Electric Drive, launched last summer in North America.
- The all-electric Fiat 500e plug-in electric car is now available for leasing through Fiat stores in California and Oregon for $199 per month for 36 months, with $999 due at signing. Previously, it had been for sale only in California.

Body panels might one day replace batteries

Future electric cars might not need batteries, but will instead be powered by their own body panels. Researchers at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, are working on new lightweight supercapacitors in the form of a thin, strong, high-energy-density film made of two all-carbon electrodes wrapped around an electrolyte, reports Gizmag magazine. The film would be set in vehicle body panels such as hoods, roofs, trunk lids and doors. Aside from being heavy, batteries are limited in how fast they can accept and discharge energy. By contrast, supercapacitors can accept and release energy in large bursts (nearly instant charge times), but don't store as much power as batteries. The short-term idea is to combine the two mediums, while further developing supercapacitor storage.

Although shiny paint looks nice, the surface area of body panels presents some electrical opportunity. It can be used not only to capture power, but the body panels themselves can become batteries.

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Sporty hatch 'perfect size' for many

Second gear.
2009 to 2014
Toyota Matrix

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Toyota's Canadian-built Matrix was built to answer the call of drivers looking for fuel efficiency, safety, adaptability and a generous space-to-price ratio, all wrapped up in a sporty-looking, easy-to-drive package.

Feature content in the five-door hatch included steering-wheel audio controls, tilt steering, MP3 audio capability and a full suite of safety systems.

Common Issues

Some owners have reported faster-than-expected wear of consumable parts, like tires and brakes, so make sure they are in good condition.

Other owners have reported issues with premature wear of CV-joint boots, which keep nasty road stuff out of the joint. Ask a mechanic to check the boots.

Poor durability from interior and exterior finishes is also noted. Plastics scratch easily, so if the cabin looks more beat up than its age warrants, mention it during your negotiations.

In 2009 models, some owners reported heavy oil consumption by the 2.4-litre engine, which is said to be caused by a block and/or piston-ring defect. Some dealers have replaced piston rings and even engine blocks as a solution, under warranty. Although this issue wasn't rampant, anyone considering a 2009 Matrix with the larger engine should check with a mechanic first. Or opt for a 2010 or newer model, which doesn't seem to suffer from the problem.

On cars with the manual transmission, any occasional difficulty shifting into reverse is likely caused by the design of the transmission. Many owners simply accept it, and solve it by shifting to another gear and then trying reverse again.

Confirm proper operation of all window switches, as some owners say they become sticky and seize over time.

CONTRIBUTED

What owners like

Owners rave about the on-board space, sporty looks, good fuel mileage and overall blend of performance, efficiency and utility. The words "perfect size" come up fairly frequently in owner reviews.

What owners dislike

Common gripes include larger-than-expected blind spots, fussy iPod integration, and not quite enough power for hilly terrain, especially with the automatic.

Engines

Look for a 1.8-L, 130-hp four-cylinder on most models, with a 2.4-L, 160-hp unit available on higher-end units. All-wheel drive was available, as were manual and automatic transmissions.

The verdict

A close-to-stock Toyota Matrix, with a thumbs-up from your mechanic, should offer above-average reliability, space and fuel economy for years to come.

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

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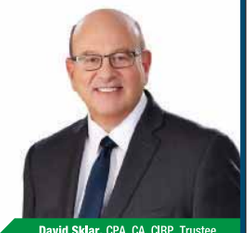

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you dream about moving up in the world there is a chance that it might happen this week. At the very least you will lay the foundations for future success.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The restrictions you have been labouring under in recent days will fade over the next 24 hours. Your attitude will be more positive too, giving you a greater sense of freedom.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Stick to the facts today, especially when dealing with money. If you are tempted to make a decision for sentimental reasons it could easily backfire.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Today you will find it easier to be more outgoing and sociable and that's good because you have been a bit too self-obsessed of late. You're allowed to have fun — and look for love.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You have many good ideas but how many will amount to anything? If you are not sure which ones have selling potential ask someone who is likely to know.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
All things are possible for you now, Virgo, so set your sights high and don't stop until you have reached your goal. You will be amazed how easily things come to you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Cosmic activity in one of the more sensitive areas of your chart could make you more emotional than usual but maybe that's no bad thing.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What you say today will have far-reaching effects for months to come, so think before you speak and strive to be positive.

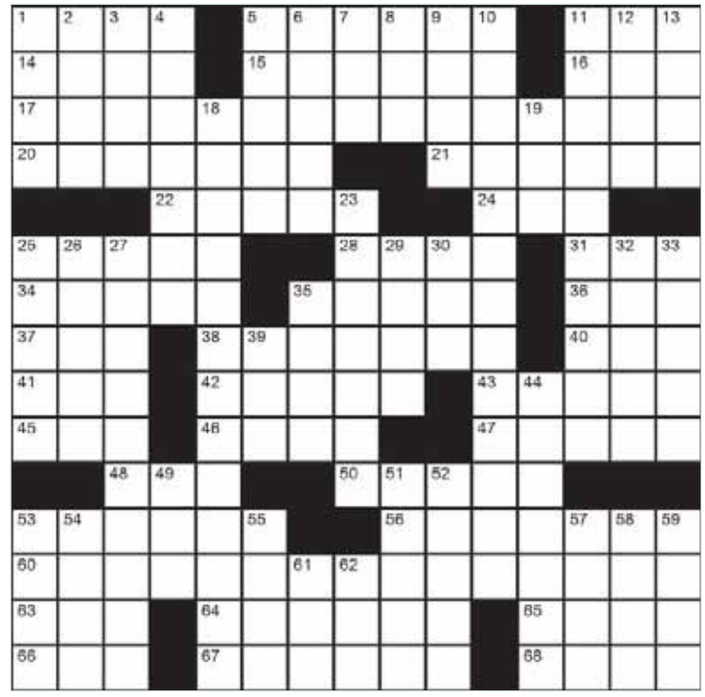
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Turn your attention to financial matters. You may have spent a lot recently and with values planet Venus moving into the money area of your chart you must find ways to save.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The entry of love planet Venus into your sign today means you can expect good news concerning a long-term relationship. Difficulties will ease over the next few days.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
For someone who is confident you seem thin-skinned right now. Could it be because you realize that criticisms being leveled at you are true? Why not just admit you were wrong?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Put your worries behind you and have fun with your friends. Some will say you're neglecting your responsibilities but you can ignore them. You need to take a break.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



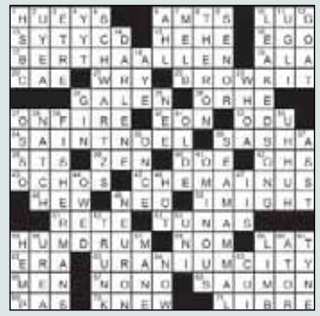
Across

1. Bugs Bunny's foe Elmer
5. Duty
11. Neil Young's "Old __"
14. "Dies __": Latin hymn
15. Shots __ __ (Hockey statistics)
16. Rock-__ (Classic jukebox company)
17. "__-__ __": Tragically Hip tune with the line "I stole this from a hockey card..."
20. Bruce Springsteen & The _ __ Band
21. First season player
22. Assumed name
24. Nero's 511
25. Language of Sri Lanka
28. VIP's vehicle
31. Sports org.
34. John Hersey's bell town
35. Rice dish
36. "Gosh."
37. Marcel Marceau's clown
38. Demolishing one
40. Zippy dance
41. Tubular fish
42. Cloistered chaps
43. #41-Across ...in sushi bars
45. Regret
46. __ Reader (Alternative press magazine)
47. Charles of "Gaslight" (1944)
48. French possessive
50. Little Richard's "__ __ Up"
53. Certain chambers
56. Feminist Gloria
60. Canadian painter from Montreal (b.1906 - d.1993) ...her works include Harbour and Milkweed: 3 wds.
63. Sisqo's group, __ Hill
64. Lemon juicer
65. Cupid's Greek counterpart
66. Drake's music
67. Vintage model for Chrysler
68. Gus Van __ (Director)

Down

1. __ and drum (Marching band duo)
2. Mr. Geller's
3. Music duo, __ Punk
4. Get off the choo-choo
5. Moviedom's Marisa
6. Ms. Ekberg
7. "Pretty Woman" (1990) actor ...his initials-sharers
8. Cyclades island
9. Impartial
10. As per #11-Down... bit of Lorde's song "Yellow Flicker Beat": "My blood is a __ __ __, precious stones..."
11. "The Hunger Games: __ - Part 1" (2014)
12. Jai __
13. Scruff
18. Product by American food brand French's: 2 wds.
19. Night: Latin
23. More glossy
25. Southern Alberta town
26. "Bon voyage!"
27. Quebec is the world's biggest producer of what?: 2 wds.
29. Classes
30. Ms. West
32. Neutral tone
33. Norse sea god
35. Philadelphia's puny place
39. Decay
44. Posters
49. Prefix with 'dermis'
51. Small island
52. Prefix meaning 'Feather'
53. RCN rank
54. Uncommon, in Latin
55. Snick-or-__
57. Canadian painter Ms. Collyer (b.1898 - d.1979)
58. Collar type
59. __. __. Helens, Wash.
61. Volkswagen slogan, __ Auto.
62. 'I love', in Latin

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3	5				2	8	
4			8		3			7
			7					9
			2					1
			4					5
		1					9	
	9					6		
8					1			
6	7	2	9		8	1	4	3

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Yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	9	7	6	4	3	5	1
4	5	7	1	2	3	8	9	6
3	1	6	9	8	5	2	4	7
5	6	2	4	9	8	1	7	3
7	8	3	2	5	1	4	6	9
9	4	1	6	3	7	5	8	2
2	7	4	8	1	9	6	3	5
6	3	8	5	7	2	9	1	4
1	9	5	3	4	6	7	2	8

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OR

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INCLUDES $500 LIMITED TIME BONUS

OR CHOOSE GREAT CASH OFFERS

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM $23,794[3]
INCLUDING $5,000 IN CASH CREDIT[4]

Sorento EX shown[5] Cash purchase price $33,494
hwy / city 100km[6] : 9.0L/12.7L

2015 SORENTO LX AT

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees and a $5,000 cash credit[4]. Offer based on new 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) with a selling price of $28,794. Excludes HST.

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM $12,999[3]
INCLUDING $4,515 IN CASH CREDIT[4]

Forte SX shown[5] Cash purchase price $26,814
hwy / city 100km[6]: 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, a $4,500 cash credit and a $15 dealer contribution[4]. Offer based on new 2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) with a selling price of $17,514. Excludes HST.

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM $11,999[3]
INCLUDING $3,615 IN CASH CREDIT[4]

Rio4 SX with Navigation shown[5] Cash purchase price $22,514
hwy / city 100km[6]: 5.3L/7.3L

2015 RIO LX MT

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, a $3,600 cash credit and a $15 dealer contribution[4]. Offer based on new 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F) with a selling price of $15,614. Excludes HST.

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